

Hafa Adai!

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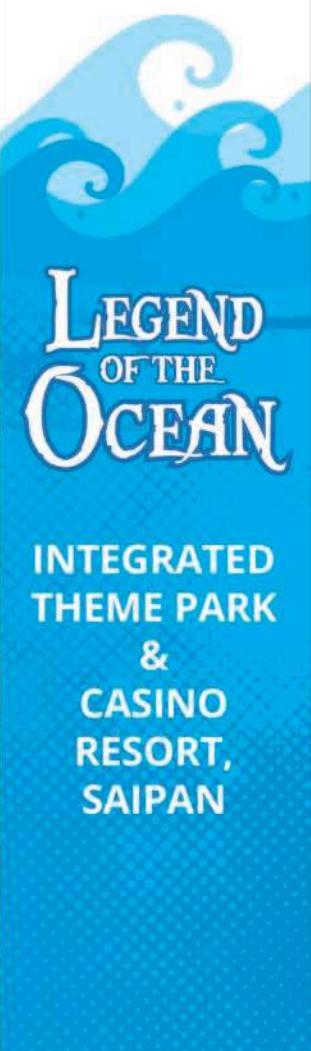
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**CEC's Guerrero says they did not authorize appeal. PAGE 2
NMC sees \$700K projected deficit this fiscal year. PAGE 6**

Marianas Stars
Entertainment, Inc.

THE
PEOPLE
OF
CNMI
DESERVE
MORE.



SAIPAN'S FIRST FEMALE MAYOR

Marian Tudela sworn in



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Surrounded by family and friends, Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela became Saipan's first female mayor after being sworn in yesterday at the Coral Ocean Point Resort.

The 69-year-old was appointed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos to serve as mayor of the island for the remainder of the late Donald P. Flores' unexpired term.

Flores passed away from a massive stroke on June 2. Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho served as acting mayor while awaiting Tudela's return to Saipan from Arizona.

"Thank you for joining me this morning in my swearing in as mayor. I really appreciate and happy that you all came here today, but at the same time I'm very sad because Mayor Flores left us. Mayor

Flores left me six months to finish his work and I promise you that I will do my very best to serve the community and continue whatever [job] he left for me [to do]... Seven months is too short but I will try," she said inside the crowded Double Eagle Restaurant.

After the short swearing-in ceremony administered by Inos, Tudela reiterated that she will continue Flores' programs and will retain all the staff at the Saipan Mayor's Office, including adviser Henry Hofshneider.

She also asked everyone in attendance See MARIAN on Page 4

USCG brings supplies to Alamagan, Pagan

Coast Guard cutter *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat home ported in Guam, delivered humanitarian supplies to residents of remote islands in the Pacific on May 27.

In conjunction with *Assateague*'s law enforcement patrol, the crew coordinated efforts with the CNMI's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Northern Island's Mayor's Office to provide assistance with the delivery of vital supplies to the people of the Northern Islands.

See USCG on Page 4

A boat crew from Coast Guard cutter *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat home ported in Guam, delivers vital humanitarian supplies to the remote island of Alamagan in the Northern Mariana Islands May 27, 2014. In conjunction with *Assateague*'s law enforcement patrol, the crew coordinated efforts with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Northern Island's Mayor's Office to provide assistance with the delivery of vital supplies to the people of the Northern Islands.

U.S. COAST GUARD/ENSIGN FREDDY HOFSCHEIDER



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TORRES**
for GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR

**CHANGE ALREADY STARTED.
Eloy & Ralph are making IT happen. Today.**



Paid for by the Committee-to-Elect Inos-Torres, Judith Pangelinan - Treasurer

Local

ON OAG'S DECISION TO APPEAL RULING ON ARTICLE 12 INITIATIVE

CEC's Guerrero says they did not authorize appeal



WELCOME HOME, MYANA!

Miss Teen Marianas 2006 Myana Welch is welcomed home by Miss Teen Marianas 2014 candidates. Welch is in town for a brief visit and helped coach her Miss Teen sisters on personal style, modeling, responding to media inquiries, among others.

Inos: TGCC should speed up review of Mega Stars' application

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is urging the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to expedite its review of Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.'s license application to take over and run the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

TCGCC executive director Lucia Blanco-Maratita said last week that it has given Gaming Integrated Services up to 120 days to review the license application of the Hong Kong-based investor.

However, the four-month wait has yet to start, as TCGCC and Gaming Integrated

Services can still ask for more documents from Mega Stars and only once they're submitted that is when the 120-day clock actually starts.

"I cannot really comment because that's run by the Tinian Gaming Control Commission and is separate from the Commonwealth Gaming Commission and it's outside the oversight of the CNMI government. But I just wish that they expedite that so that once and for all the investors will know how they will proceed. I think it's just taking too long," Inos said yesterday after the swearing in of Saipan Mayor Marian Deleon Guer-

ero Tudela at Coral Ocean Point Resort.

He said it is his understanding that Michael Kwan's group still has the valid casino license to run Tinian Dynasty and that Mega Stars Overseas is operating under that license.

"They're applied for their own and that's the issue right now if they can have that approval. So they have this 120-day window for them supply the additional information. Then again I just wish that all things are accelerated so they all know where they stand. Most especially if things look favorable the license is granted so the Mega [Stars Overseas] folks

can do what they plan to do, which is to generate more activity, generate more revenue."

As for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation wanting to hold a public hearing before confirming his nominees for the Casino Commission, Inos said he is OK with that.

"That's fine. Again, a lot of these things are time-sensitive. If they want to do the public hearing, let's get it on because time is running out. At this point the Lottery Commission is required under law to make the award and that's by July 19. That means immediately after the end of the Lottery Commis-

sion, the Gaming Commission will take over from that point on. So it's important that we have the Gaming Commission in place by that time."

Inos said he also supports the Attorney General Office's decision to beg off from representing the Legislature in Glenn Hunter's lawsuit against the CNMI government with regards to the passage of the Saipan casino law.

"The attorney general said no. I believe certain members of the Legislature are defendants on that thing. They would need to have their own representation individually or as a member of the Legislature. For the purpose of that case, the governor is a defendant both in his

personal and official capacity and the attorney general makes that representation."

Inos also said that if a legislative initiative to abolish the Saipan casino law is approved and the vote in November goes against the statute, then he has no choice but respect the will of the people and that means no casino on the island.

"If the votes are there, that's it. Once the vote is in favor of the referendum, which is to nullify the statute, that's it. The statute is null and void."

Inos added there's no need to bring it up to the courts because the result of the would-be referendum against the Saipan casino bill is final and is not subject for court review.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Managaha Wins Best Beach Award...Again!

For the 11th year in a row, Managaha has won the "Best Beach Award" at Japan's Annual Marine Diving Fair.

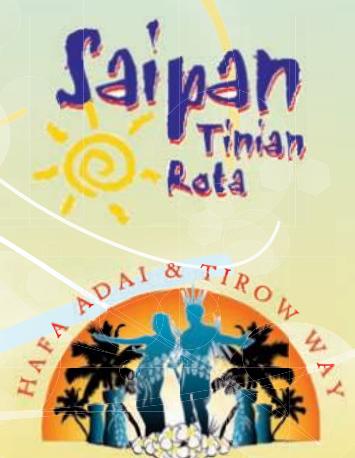
The consecutive award highlighted a series of awards given to the Northern Mariana Islands. **Obyan Beach** in Saipan was awarded second place in the same category, followed by **Teteto Beach** in Rota. Also, **Saipan, Tinian, and Rota** came fourth in the "Best Diving Area Award."

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** had a promotional booth at the fair. The MVA also provided an award for the annual photo contest organized by the **Marine Arts Center** and gave a prize for the "**Saipan, Tinian and Rota Award**" for the award-winning picture selected by the



Marine Arts Center Committee.

The award-winning marine wonders of Managaha will be highlighted during the **1st Swimming Festival in Managaha** – formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament – slated for June 28, 2014. Registration forms are available on the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.



Empowering Saipan!



TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI

Buenas dias Saipan,Tinian,Rota!

Today it gives us great pleasure to officially present Best Sunshine to you, the people of these beautiful islands. As a daughter company of Imperial Pacific, trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, we pledge to be a positive influence on the local community and a strong partner in the economic recovery of Saipan.

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BEST SUNSHINE
International

29 school buses, 10 vans ready for class opening

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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 REPORTER

The Public School System plans to retire some of its school buses by the end of next school year but it still has enough buses to transport all students when school year 2014-2015 starts in three months, according to Glenn Muña, PSS associate commissioner for administrative services, on Friday.

Muña also told *Saipan Tribune*

buse that PSS is busy with a series of trainings and activities to prepare for the opening of classes in September.

Currently, Muña said, PSS has 29 school buses and 10 special vans on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

On Saipan, 15 66-seater buses and seven vans are fully functional and in good condition. On Tinian, two buses and one van are ready, while Rota has two buses and two vans.

According to him, PSS has a bus on Rota and Tinian that is currently under repair and would be up and running before the Sept. 3 class opening.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS has 20 bus drivers on Saipan, three on Tinian, and four on Rota.

Muna said the current bus fleet is enough to transport students for the upcoming school year.

"However, due to the wear and tear and the lifespan of bus-

es, we will be needing to retire some buses by the end of next school year," he added.

Muña said that PSS has been providing its drivers with professional development training, including defensive driving, transporting students with special needs, and first aid/CPR, to name a few.

He said the lack of funds to procure new buses and other related expenses are some of the challenges for the upcom-

ing school year.

Muña disclosed that PSS is no longer a recipient of the Federal Transit Administration grant.

For years, the FTA grant helped PSS purchase new buses and vans for its students. The Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority is now the authorized recipient of FTA grants for the CNMI.

"The FTA funding that we used to receive also assisted our department in maintaining our bus fleet through preventive

maintenance. Since the loss of the federal funding, we are challenged to find additional funding to purchase buses that will be retiring at the end of next school year, providing preventive maintenance for our buses, purchasing additional vans for our schools and for transporting our students," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS had been directly applying and receiving FTA grants since the 1990s with an average of \$1.1 million each fiscal year.

Best Sunshine meets with CUC, NMTI



JAYSON CAMACHO

Best Sunshine chief operating officer Terence Tay discusses public transportation and workforce development with Northern Marianas Technical Institute education director Vic Cepeda, center, and NMTI's board of directors chair John Gonzales.

Best Sunshine International Ltd. met with representatives of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to get an overview of the CNMI workforce and electricity costs.

Best Sunshine's chief operating officer Terence Tay met with NMTI education director Vic Cepeda and NMTI board of directors chair John Gonzales and discussed the institute's capability to supply the islands' workforce.

"We have to plan, bring in the instructors, and have to note in three years' time we need the people so that when they come out they have a job and they have the right skills that they

need," Tay said. "We also need to focus on the trade aspects."

According to Gonzales, they don't have a friendly timeline and that they must move forward prior to the deadline of the CW program's extension on December 2019.

"We should not wait for the federal government, local government, or local investors to tell it to us. We must decide for ourselves that NMTI is the ideal institution and strategically poised to turn around the economy because we are not dealing with a five-year deadline. I am thinking three years, so we must have a portion of the workforce [ready]," Gonzales said.

Gonzales noted that they will

be introducing legislation that will turn NMTI into a charter institution "that will pave the way for federal funding and philanthropic funding to come to NMTI."

Gonzales told Tay that all investments that would go through NMTI would go back to the community "if double or not triple in terms of building local capacity."

"Our best bet in lucrative investment is in human resources," Gonzales said.

He also noted that the some of the institute's programs range from three months to two years.

"I think it's a win-win situation when we partner together because we tailor and customize technical

boot camp classes and instructions," Gonzales told Tay.

Tay said that if the integrated resort comes into action, they will have to see how many people they will need and they will have projections for the amount of workers that will be needed.

Best Sunshine also met with CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, legal counsel James Sirok, and chief financial officer Charles Warren to talk about the costs of electricity in the CNMI and ways to lower the rates.

"The reason for the meeting was for us to understand what the challenges they are facing, how it is affecting the people of the CNMI, and how they bring in diesel and the consequences of that utilization," said Tay.

Fletcher told Tay about CUC's integrated resource plan, while Tay talked about the importance of ways to save on energy costs in the CNMI. Other discussions included the use of LED lights and how important it is in saving energy.

Tay said they will help bring the cost of electricity down through community outreach programs if they are chosen as the sole casino license holders

"One of the main community outreach is to discuss how to lower the utilization of utilities within their homes, businesses, and organizations and how it will help reduce costs," Tay said.

Tay told *Saipan Tribune* that as part of the community chest (which is a plan that Best Sunshine will do for the community) they will discuss matters on solar and wind energy and ways to lower energy costs. (*Jayson Camacho*)

ed to the residents on the islands of Alamagan and Pagan," stated Marvin Seman of the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "The transport of those critical essentials such as food and water was well received and appreciated by the community. We hope to continue this worthwhile effort and partnership for the benefit of our community."

Alamagan is one of the northern islands of the CNMI located approximately 288 miles north of Saipan. The island is the summit of a composite volcano rising more than 13,000 feet and home to less than seven residents.

Pagan is approximately 70 miles north of Alamagan and is

the fourth largest island of the CNMI. Once evacuated due to an eruption in 1981, Pagan is currently home to a small community of 11 residents.

"As Coast Guardsmen it is always rewarding to assist those in need. Our cooperation with the Northern Islands provided a unique opportunity for us to assist the 20 or so residents who remain here and overcome some unique challenges during the delivery," said Lt. Jared Silverman, commanding officer of Assateague. "Our small boat crew did an exceptional job maneuvering near the cliffs at Alamagan to deliver the supplies, and the entirety of the operation is testament to the adaptability of the cutter and her crew."

Assateague's assigned missions include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, ports waterways and coastal security and national defense. The Assateague has an area of responsibility equivalent to the size of the continental United States.

The aging Island-class 110-

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTA meeting on Wednesday

All Marianas High School parents, teachers, and students are invited to attend the last PTA meeting for this school year on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 6pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. The meeting will include an update on the projects requested by MHS administration, future events,

and a report from the MHS Student Council, followed by performances by the student who will be competing in the June 22 International Thespian Festival in Nebraska. We will be entertained by the talented students and the students will gain experience performing for an audience. It's a winner of an evening for all! (MHS)

CCA board meeting on June 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on June 17, 2014, Tuesday, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the asso-

ciation at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarinas.org. (CCA)

Air Force, Coast Guard training on FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 10-11, from 9am to 3pm, and June 12, from 10am to 7pm

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 11-12, from 8am to 4pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

years. I'm only going to serve the next six months," she said.

She's also honored to be the first ever woman to occupy the position of mayor on Saipan—and possibly the entire history of the CNMI.

Inos acknowledged that Tudela's ascension as Saipan's chief executive is both "historic and very significant."

Tudela had been living in the U.S. mainland in Arizona where she was taking care of her great-granddaughter. She used to work for the CNMI Medical Referral Program in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In a statement, Tudela said her first task is to meet with her staff and review current projects along with daily activities. She added that all services currently provided to Saipan residents will continue without interruption.

Even though her term as mayor will only be up to January 2015, Tudela said she plans to ensure all relevant laws and regulations are followed as she fulfills her duties and responsibilities to the residents of Saipan.

USCG

From Page 1

Due to the limited number of resources available to transport supplies up the archipelago, the crew delivered supplies provided by the CNMI's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security totaling more than 1,000 lbs, including gasoline, batteries, clothing, drinking water, and food.

"On behalf of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Mayor Tobias Aldan, we would like to extend our utmost appreciation and thank you to the finest crew onboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Assateague* for the humanitarian assistance that they have provided

05

SAIPAN, MY PACIFIC OASIS!



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Best Sunshine realizes, that protecting and maintaining the natural beauty of Saipan is essential. This will ensure the continuous flow of new visitors from all over the world. Best Sunshine will take the responsibility to adhere to strict international building codes and operational regulations very seriously. Construction is not destruction! Best Sunshine is committed to the future of Saipan.

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Empowering Saipan

BEST SUNSHINE
International

NMC sees \$700K projected deficit this fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart disclosed Friday that the insti-

tution expects to see a sizeable shortfall this fiscal year to the tune of \$700,000. This shortfall, according to Hart, is due to the insufficient government appropriation received this fiscal year,

as in recent fiscal years.

While the college's budget request to the governor was \$9.42 million in fiscal year 2014, it only received \$4.1 million in direct appropriations (excluding \$86,000 in Compact Impact funds and \$500,000 for Commonwealth Worker funding, which is federal pass-through funding).

In fiscal year 2013, NMC asked for \$9.5 million from the central government but got only \$4 million.

"This shortfall exists despite the college's efforts to reduce personnel costs, including eliminating and consolidating FTEs over the years as well as deferring hiring," said the president.

With the college expecting to see its enrollment numbers

spike this fall semester, Hart said this makes it even more difficult to fund positions in order to support student demand for classes and services.

The CNMI's budget cycle, which runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 each year, is extremely challenging for NMC, according to Bobbi Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services.

"With fall semester starting in August, which falls in the final quarter of this cycle, this often impacts the hiring of both full-time and adjunct faculty," she said.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, said that students expect the college to support their needs with services typically made available at other higher education institutions.

lion in fiscal year 2007 to \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2014.

With its limited appropriation from the government, NMC said it had done much to live within its means. Among these is making realistic revenue projections, regular budget monitoring and reductions as needed, and increased revenues by aggressively seeking federal grant funding and expanding community program offerings.

NMC said it had also done prudent management of working capital and careful timing of cash flows, internal reappportionment and reallocation of existing resources to fund strategic initiatives.

Hart also enumerated cost cuts that included energy and utility conservation and retrofitting measures resulting in utilities savings of over 33 percent since 2010; deferral of maintenance; and deferral of hiring resulting in \$125,000 in savings in fiscal year 2014 alone.

NMC also eliminated positions from a peak of 218 in 2006 to 117 in 2014. Cost sharing FTEs through grant funding resulting in a savings of \$330,000 in fiscal year 2014.

Moving forward with development on Tinian

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider convened a meeting Wednesday with the Tinian Leadership and the Department of Public Lands to discuss the future of a parcel of public land on the southwest side of Tinian that's now available for development.

"Once I was informed by DPL Secretary [Pete] Tenorio of the land's availability, I felt it necessary to immediately bring together the leadership of Tinian so that a plan could be made on the future of this prime property," said Hofsneider. "Already there are a few investors interested in developing the land, and through our efforts, DPL now has the right tools to begin responding to these developers and move the potential investments forward."

The available public land is located on the southwest side of Tinian, between *Lasarino* and *Puntan Diablo*. The land was formerly leased by Marianas Resort Development Co.

Hofsneider explained that the development of this public land has long been delayed, and expressed the desire to immediately advance its progress for the betterment of the CNMI and its people.

Besides Hofsneider, present in the meeting Wednesday were Tenorio; Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Sens. Francisco Borja, Francisco Cruz, and Joaquin Borja; and Tinian Councilmen Antonio Borja, Steven Cabrera, and Ray Cing. (*Office of the Lieutenant Governor*)

Economic model presentation today

The CNMI Department of Commerce is announcing public presentations to be held on the islands of Tinian and Rota this month. The purpose of the events is to present the CNMI's Economic Model.

The project, which is paid through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, developed an updated CNMI-based Input-Output Economic Model. This tool will allow policy makers and relevant stakeholders a model to provide employment, income and output forecasts based on various elements.

The model uses various data sets collected from the CNMI government agencies, as well as published data sets from U.S. federal agencies to develop a unique model useful for project-

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Filipinos mark PH Independence Day declaration

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In advance of the 116th anniversary of the Philippines' declaration of independence on June 12, the Filipino community on Saipan held a flag-raising ceremony early yesterday morning at the Coral Ocean Point Resort.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin, CNMI honorary consul designate

Glicerio Arago, and leaders of Saipan and Tinian Filipino groups led close to a hundred in attendance at the event, which also marked the signing of the CNMI-Philippines friendship proclamation.

"I congratulate all Filipinos for having celebrated the 116th Independence Day proclamation event and I congratulate the local community as well for being able to work in partnership with Filipino workers, friends, and family out here," said Inos after the event.

He said the event was very moving and that he saw a lot of camaraderie and expressions of partnership and support and working as one community.

"I hope we can continue to do that for as long as they love here and I ask our local community to do the same and reciprocate," he added.

Mangibin echoed Inos' call for Filipinos and residents to continue their decades-long partnership and cooperation. He also touched on the five-year extension of the CW program by U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez.

"I will use what Gov. Inos said, that Filipinos in the CNMI continue to be a strong partner to their local brethren toward a stable and fruitful change. I'm hoping that with this five-year extension that is being given to us, there's a better future," he said during the open forum following the event.

Mangibin added that he's hoping that immigration reform will finally push through in the next couple of years.

"Let us hope that immigration reform will pass so all of you will have a greener pasture...As much as we want you to continue to be a part of us, many of you have American children already and we don't want your families to be separated," he said in mix of English and Tagalog.

Mangibin bids adieu

Mangibin dropped a bombshell of sorts when he revealed that he will be vacating his post as consul general of the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, next month.

"I will be the ambassador to Nairobi, Kenya, together with 13 other countries in East Africa. I will also be the permanent representative of the United Nations for environment program and human settlement. These

are very important programs because it deals with climate change and housing," he told reporters.

Mangibin will be leaving Guam in July 21, 2014. He will be replaced by Marc De Borja, a young scholar and writer of several books. Mangibin said the incoming consul general is fluent in Spanish and Nihonggo and it will his first time to head a post.

He said his tour of duty in Micronesia will be unforgettable, simply because his previous posts were troubled hotspots.

"You have to take into account that in the past I was ambassador to Kuwait at the height of the second invasion and then they sent me to Gadhafi's Libya as ambassador and also in Baghdad, Iraq, so you would see the big difference between that and coming into the CNMI and Guam. To me Saipan and Guam is paradise compared to

these previous posts. It's a big relief, really. Now, they're asking me to go to another challenging post."

Mangibin said his attendance at yesterday's function will be his last to visit the Commonwealth as he is also set to fly to the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Republic Palau before he leaves his post.

Mangibin said mobile consular services will continue even after he leaves "because it's a necessity and a requirement." He said his office is also waiting for additional passport machines.

On the appointment of Arago as honorary consul to the CNMI, he said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has already asked the Office of Foreign Missions to expedite the process.

"It has become a never-ending submission of documents and I'm already leaving and Arago's appointment is not there yet...

» Mangibin to leave post in July

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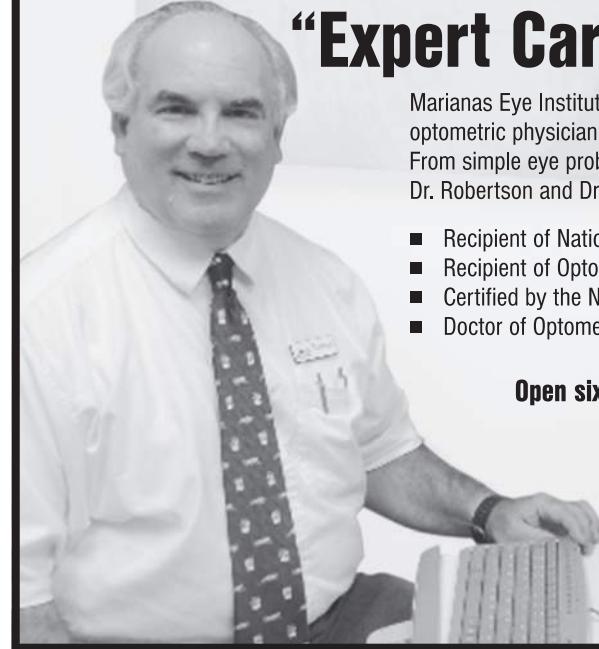
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Department. With Kilili's intervention, hopefully the Office of Foreign Missions will finally act on this."

United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza and

United Filipinos Association on Tinian president Rodney Caballes were also in attendance and both thanked Mangibin for his service to the people of the Marianas.

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Zoning approves Garapan hotel project

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After deferring its decision on a Garapan hotel project last May 8 due to issues on parking spaces, a 15-foot setback, and the front that had no space for dropping off customers, the Saipan Zoning Board finally approved the project after the developer made major changes.

The Garapan hotel project is being proposed by Sung Soo Lim under H.S. Lee Construction and represented by KIMO Enterprises' Jae Yeul Lim.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro said the applicant submitted a "revised" plan for the project.

The revision transformed the project from a four-story hotel with 60 rooms to a three-story hotel with 36 rooms and commercial spaces. The proposed project is located on Beach Road in Garapan, north of Joteten Hafadai Shopping Center and across the I Love Saipan shopping center.

The new plan also includes 50 parking spaces, down from the original 78 parking spaces. The ground floor consists of 29 parking spaces and the second floor will have 21.

Lim said they have discussed the front side issue with the Department of Public Lands and, according to him, they told him that they could use the space.

Zoning Board vice chair Gus Kaipat asked Lim if the drop off zone would require a large bus. Lim said that they would be using a 20-passenger bus.

House Vice Speaker Francisco Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said he fully supports the project and that Hyun Sook Lee was one of the first Koreans to arrive on Saipan and had been a resident voter until his passing.

"Although he has passed away, we are still seeing development through his wife, management team, and through his company that I ask the board to pass the project because we need this," Dela Cruz said.

David Dougherty of Pacific Marine Enterprises Inc. said he has two adjacent properties to the proposed project and that his only concern is the 15-foot setback that was raised at the May 8 meeting.

Ogumoro said the applicant included an application on a variance for the setback, which allows an 8-foot setback.

Zoning board member Bruce

Bateman said he is actually disappointed with the reduction in the size of the project.

"I am actually disappointed that you [H.S. Lee Construction] come back with a smaller project in order to meet the requirements. We might be down 1 percent [in visitor arrivals] for this month but I am telling you we're turning people away. I wish you would've returned with a six-floor structure and all the parking spaces that was needed," Bateman said.

The applicant is also required to maintain landscaping and to screen parking lot service areas,

storage areas, and trash bins away from public view.

Zoning's planner Maryann B. Arriola also stated that the applicant should not harm and endanger the safety of the public, comply with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality requirements, provide the Zoning board with traffic analysis and management plan that includes mitigating the traffic within three months after issuance of the conditional use permit, comply with requirements of other regulatory agencies, and should apply for site permit before any installations.

CUC seeks exemption from beautification tax

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pays some \$3.8 million a year in taxes when it procures fuel for its power plants—an amount that could be lowered if the agency is exempted from paying the "beautification tax."

CUC executive director Alan W. Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* Thursday that the agency will ask the Legislature to exempt the corporation from the beautification tax.

"The beautification tax is a fairly new wrinkle that CUC is now being assessed by Mobil Oil Marianas, Inc. Past and current contracts with Mobil pass through to CUC all taxes charged on fuel. Previously these taxes included wharfage fee, oil spill tax, and gross receipts tax and now the beautification tax is included," said Fletcher.

He revealed that in total, all these taxes amount to over 21 cents per gallon of diesel—

about \$3.8 million per year.

Saipan Tribune learned that 4 CMC 1411 as amended by Public Law 13-42 levies a tax of 0.42 percent ad valorem on all consumer goods as defined in 1401(g). This tax shall be collected by the Division of Customs at the point of entry.

However, the Legislature is permitted to amend the law and exempt an organization from this tax.

"Previously CNMI Division of Customs allowed this tax to be offset. However, [Customs] has now disallowed this long-standing practice and informed Mobil that fuel sold to CUC is exempt only from LFT and not from the beautification tax. As a result, Customs invoiced Mobil the total beautification tax from 2003 to present," disclosed Fletcher.

If Customs' position is correct, and if Mobil is required to pay back beautification taxes on volumes previously sold to CUC, the agreements between CUC and Mobil allow for this tax to be recovered from CUC

by Mobil, Fletcher said.

"As Customs pursues this claim, and should it prevail, Mobil intends to recover these beautification taxes from CUC," he added.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mobil now includes this beautification tax on the price of diesel fuel oil invoices it bills CUC. By way of estimate, this additional tax amounts to about \$230,000 per year.

Fletcher said CUC is currently looking at the legality of the tax as it applies to fuel delivered to CUC. CUC feels that the tax should only apply to "packaged" goods that arrive in the CNMI in containers. The law, he said, was passed to support the CNMI's solid waste management program.

"If it is determined that this tax applies to the diesel fuel delivered to the power plants, CUC will approach the Legislature and request an exemption from this tax to prevent it from being passed on to consumers," added the executive director.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 9, 2006

'No room for displaced govt workers'

Rather than realize some savings, the government's planned termination of employees may prove more costly as it would result in increased unemployment, less purchases, and less revenues for the public sector. To begin with, the business sector has no capacity to accommodate displaced government employees at this time, said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Charles V. Cepeda in an interview yesterday. "We are not prepared to accommodate these government workers," said Cepeda. "To do that is tantamount to sending the nonresident workers home. But we can't just get rid of nonresident workers. We have contract agreements and to do otherwise would mean lawsuits," said Cepeda. This developed as the Executive Branch is poised to hand down termination letters to excepted government employees today as a cost-cutting measure.

Biz sector says no to Miller bill

Leaders of the local business community have expressed strong opposition to the new minimum wage and immigration takeover bill that California Democrat Rep. George Miller introduced in Congress, describing the measure as "highly politically charged" and exaggerated. Charles V. Cepeda, president of Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that any push for a minimum wage increase at this time "is detrimental to the economy." Lynn Knight, chair of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands, said Miller's bill causes "uncertainty and a political distraction we don't need right now." "I have not seen the bill, but based on media reports, what the congressman said is largely old, sensationalized issues rehashed. Once again, I'm sad to see the CNMI become a scapegoat in American politics," said Knight.

June 9, 2007

More cuts eyed in workers' benefits

The Department of Labor is also considering a policy that will allow employers to reduce the workers' benefits on transportation, power, gas, and water. Assistant attorney general Dorothy Hill, who serves as Labor counsel, said other workers' benefits that may be deducted include the value of transportation to and from work, electricity, gas, and water furnished to the employee for personal use. Hill made the recommendations to Attorney General Matthew Gregory and Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas due to the impending wage hike.

Chamber fears filing of more frivolous cases

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce believes that foreign workers are filing frivolous complaints against their employers to keep their status in the CNMI and possibly qualify for federalization. This even as the business group expressed exasperation with the federal government over "green card" talks for guest workers. "Continued talk from federal officials with respect to 'green cards' for nonresident workers is creating an untenable situation. Workers are filing frivolous labor claims in the hopes that they will be able to outrun the clock and be here when any such program is put in place," said Chamber president Juan T. Guerrero in his remarks during a meeting with Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne this week on Saipan.

June 9, 2008

'CUC just doing full cost recovery'

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said that, except for the Fitial administration, no other administration had the courage to actually implement 100 percent cost recovery for utilities. Referring to the newly increased electric rates, Muna said the Fitial administration is focused on fully resolving CUC's problems and is the first one to go with full cost recovery.

Increased demand for US passports seen

The Honolulu Passport Agency has urged U.S. nationals and citizens hoping to travel abroad next year to apply for passports now. Nancy K. Finn, regional director of the Passport Agency, said the amount of time required to obtain a passport is expected to increase significantly. The U.S. Department of State expects to issue over 21 million passports in 2008 and 30 million in 2009. "We want to encourage U.S. nationals and citizens to apply for their passports now, rather than waiting until they have an emergency, or until next spring when we expect that we will again be extremely busy," Finn said.



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Wrong click on Labor website costs firm \$300 fine, warning

A company administrative officer's "wrong click" on the CNMI Department of Labor's website has cost Winchell's Donut House a \$300 fine and a warning.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Winchell's Inc., owner of

Winchell's Donut House, to pay the \$300 fine on or before June 12, 2014.

Cody warned the company that any failure to review and consider online job applicants or failure to post the required declaration (online response) in a timely manner may result in

more severe sanctions.

Cody said that Winchell's management admitted that it failed to correctly read the postings on Labor website and failed to consider those applicants who had responded on the website.

Cody said the administrative officer acknowledged his mistake in navigating Labor's website.

Cody heard Labor's compliance agency case against Winchell's on April 7 and May 13, 2014. Winchell's administrative officer, a consultant, and its counsel, Colin Thompson, appeared at the hearing.

In its determination, Labor's Enforcement Section charged Winchell's with violating Labor Regulation that requires an employer to file a "declaration"

with Labor's Citizen Job Placement Section within 14 days after publication of a job announcement on its website.

The "declaration" requires the employer to post a timely, short response on the website, explaining the action taken with respect to each applicant who posted a response to the job vacancy, and the reason(s) why that person was not hired for the position.

In December 2013, Winchell's posted job announcements on Labor's website for a store manager and three bakers.

As of March 14, 2014, Winchell's had not posted any response to Labor or the online job applicants. Ultimately, the company renewed the contracts of CW-1 workers for all

four positions.

Two U.S.-qualified job applicants responded online to the store manager posting and three responded to the baker position.

Winchell's main business office in Guam arranges all hiring of personnel on Saipan.

The company's administrative officer testified that he never realized that anyone had responded to the job announcements. He testified that when he looked at the online summary page and clicked "responses" in the right column of the page, no responses appeared on the screen. This led him to conclude that nobody had replied online to these job announcements.

In his order, Cody said the administrative officer was in error as while looking at the "summary page" he should have clicked

on the job title.

Cody said if the officer had clicked on the job title and then clicked "responses" from that page, he would have seen two applicants listed for store manager and three applicants for baker.

In addition to the website, Winchell's however, advertised the positions in the *Saipan Tribune* for about 10 days in December 2013. The company contacted all four applicants for the baker position and scheduled interviews. Three failed to appear, and the other applicant was found to be unqualified for the position.

At the end of the hearing, Labor's Enforcement stated it would leave the decision on sanctions to Cody's discretion. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



GOOGLE MAPPING

Camera operator Shogo Goto of Google Maps continues to shoot 360°, GPS-synched "Street Views" photography of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota until June 13, 2014. Google Maps is the desktop and mobile web mapping service application of Google.

Dive master found guilty of killing a spotted eagle ray

A dive master of a dive shop has been found guilty of killing and getting a protected spotted eagle ray by shooting it with a spear gun near Ice Cream Point off Saipan.

At a bench trial on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the CNMI government has proven beyond reasonable doubt that Hu Jie Fang is guilty of one count of ray protection. The offense carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment.

Fang will be sentenced on June 18, 2014.

Camacho found credible the testimonies of Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation inspector Erwin T. Flores and four other government witnesses.

Camacho said the witnesses testified that Fang shot a three-foot wide spotted eagle ray with a spear gun and took the ray on Jan. 15, 2014.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister prosecuted the case.

Assistant public defender, Matthew Meyer, counsel for the 27-year-old Fang, argued that the defendant did not know that it's illegal to kill an eagle ray. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Meyer did not call any witness.

Flores stated in his report that Juan Diego Rebuenog, a boat captain of Pretty Tour Co., brought Fang and six other persons, including four tourists, to the San Jose reef channel last Jan. 15.

Flores said that, according to Rebuenog, everyone, except him and another co-worker, entered the water to go fishing. The four tourists were not carrying any spear gun.

After several hours, Fang surfaced from beneath the water and started calling for help.

Rebuenog saw Fang carrying a spotted eagle ray with a spear gun shot on its forehead.

Rebuenog and his co-worker helped Fang put the dead eagle ray in the boat.

The boat captain said upon reaching at Pretty Tour compound in Garapan, Fang took the dead eagle ray from the boat and put it in his vehicle.

One witness reportedly stated that while aboard the boat, Fang told the tourists not to take photos of the spotted eagle ray because it's illegal to hunt them. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Opinion

Haga Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The mysteries that surround Bowe Bergdahl

Furious veterans of freed U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl's platoon are speaking in elaborate detail about his disappearance from his unit, and unambiguously accusing him of desertion—a form of betrayal so grave that many Americans with military backgrounds choke on the word. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, privy to the Pentagon's reportedly damning dossier on Bergdahl's departure, says the Army may indeed pursue desertion charges. And many Americans are parsing provocative news stories that discuss on-the-record accusations from Bergdahl's former military colleagues that the search for him cost other American soldiers their lives.

The Obama administration had to figure that releasing five of the highest-value insurgents held at Guantanamo Bay for one soldier would strike some Americans as lopsided. But the White House, in its initial exultation, acted as though it had no knowledge of that dossier. National security adviser Susan Rice, who really should avoid the Sunday morning political talk shows, assured an ABC News audience that Bergdahl had "served the United States with honor and distinction," and that he "wasn't simply a hostage—he was an American prisoner of war captured on the battlefield."

The Washington Post reports that, predictably, Afghan military officials see the exchange as a coup for their—and our—Taliban enemies. But members of Congress of both major parties had been pushing the White House to get Bergdahl home.

Administration officials relied on a sacred credo: The military tries never to leave a warrior behind.

The still unfolding allegations against Bergdahl—with, to our knowledge, not one former Army colleague publicly speaking in his defense—complicates the narrative.

The flood of fresh information doesn't change our initial verdict. An American who enlisted to serve his country is on his way home, alive. And if there is good evidence that Bergdahl did in fact abandon his unit and cost the lives of other soldiers, he deserves to be prosecuted.

Let's allow that process of formal judgment to unfold. We have no idea what in the panoply of possible explanations—naïvete, or treachery, or mental illness, or misguided frustration, or stress disorders, or some other human imperative—ultimately will explain Bowe Bergdahl to Americans perplexed by each news cycle's fresh revelations. Witness the Reuters report Wednesday that officials in his hometown of Hailey, Idaho, have canceled the June 28 homecoming they had planned. Who knows where Bergdahl will be come June 28?

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel cautioned all of us Wednesday that premature conclusions about Bergdahl's conduct in the Afghan theater are unfair to him, and to family members who have yearned in agony for his safe return. To them, that Taliban video of a Black Hawk helicopter lifting off with their loved one on board must bring jubilation.

We likely will spend months unwrapping Bowe Bergdahl—months that should explain whatever dramas led up to Saving Sergeant Enigma.

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Whit Monday recalls Ascension in Calgary

Am not interested in acquainting readers with old English, nor running a catechetical lesson on Pentecost Monday, 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Ascension Sunday, but Lola Andang still fingers her rosary beads in earnest and in case the renegade Christians in our readership wonder, this is the first day the mighty friendly ghost Casper appears solo in the liturgical calendar!

Christian traditions observe the day of the sanctified Casper (the Holy Spirit in the old lingo) being given to the followers of Jesus at Pentecost. If Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, the third party in the triune godhead descended on Pentecost. Whit Monday is the day after, usually a time to baptize new congregants to a Christian covenant.

OK. To the infidel unschooled in the finer points of the triune godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not three separate persons. "Persona" is "face" in Chinese, "mask" in Greek, so all three are the same dynamic, process, and substance, though experienced differently. Thus in religious parlance, it is not the godheads' nature that is at stake but rather the story of our experience. Father as creator is affirmed to be trustworthy. The Way-Life-Is, all of it, is good. Son is the acceptance of one's uniqueness and unrepeatability, best lived not in the anxiety of being saved but by being expended to the hilt, even unto death. Holy Spirit is the future widely open and free. One only has to decide. Alleluia!

We will leave Lola Andang with her beads and her devotion to Mary full of grace. Our concern is the experience of awe and the awesome, enough to join a covenant of the awed ones. This is the instinct, intuition, intellect and intention of the ones who don the "white" (thus, the "whit") shirt or blouse at Pentecost to fellowship under the aegis of the Son (ze child, male or female, capable of playing the Christ-role), the one who confronts us with our propensity to wait for a Messiah to extricate us from any predicament we are afraid to be in—whether it be a broken heart or an empty pocket book—and declares that no Messiah is coming. Ze brings that as good news now and evermore!

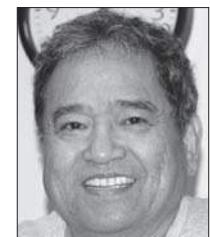
When I wrote that 2031 is my metaphor of "completed life," one of our readers replied that she did not worry about her death since God will take her away when He (sic) pleases, and I should not worry about mine either. We obviously did not make our point clear. The issue is the living of one's life, not having a "bahala na/bathala na" stance favored by many of my Malay compatriots who would rather leave the deciding to the fickle finger of fate.

Aye, there's the rub. My Bathala says, "Yo, why don't you just take that life of yours and walk! You are free!" Some calling themselves disciples, decide to keep a wake, a solemn but despair laden one, on the waiting. Sometimes, some walk their

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



glory into the annals of human history!

My 2031-year metaphor is a statistical probability number. It does not mean that by 12.15.2031, the aorta will cease supplying oxygenated blood into my circulatory system. It could very well do that before then. Or, still do a few laps on the left ventricle of the heart down to the backbone past the appointed hour.

To be a white shirt on Whit Monday is to understand that life as it is given can be received in its entirety as trustworthy and know it so in one's bones! The self we see reflected in the mirror is exactly the significant person sufficient to intrude on others who have yet to find courage to be, and just keep doing it! And the unknown tomorrow, often the cause of foreboding and fear, is actually open, neither determined nor encumbered. One can decide to just be exactly the way one is, just be it!

I attended a multicultural party at the Ascension parish in Calgary, Canada the day before Ascension Sunday. Fr. Abbie from Goa in India (tried the Portuguese "tudo bem" I picked up in Brazil after the Mass but it did not register) was a live wire from the opening of the program until he had to leave for a funeral, and then, to the 5pm Mass. He acknowledged the presence of a Methodist and Presbyterian in his audience, and we cruised along as he webbed his way from Christian metaphors to the reality of his diversely multicultural audience.

Whit Monday celebrants know the covenant group they joined. Major ancient religions have so many splinter groups but the Sunni/Shia divide in Islam is a walk in the park compared to the various combatants in Christianity's interior castle. My point of accountability is in the metaphor of the "Holy Spirit." Does my covenant group see life as open and free, urging us to be innovative and creative all we want in the expenditure of our lives?

The voices that surround us are many, and the lifestyles they recommend are varied. To be pentecostal is more than being tongue-quick with "Praise the Lord" or sincere in raising one's arms upward to urge the Holy Spirit to come. To be pentecostal is to be fearless and free. Period. One already has cosmic permission from the Holiest of Holy TO BE.

For the new white shirts of Whit Monday, live well!

Status: NMI a welfare state!

Spent several weeks listening to the voice of simple folks at home. Didn't have an agenda in mind going into the unscheduled discussions. It was purely a listening and reconnection session. Unfortunately, most of what was said weren't very encouraging, though heartfelt in every respect.

Uppermost is the price of basic family needs skyrocketing while salaries have remained the same in a sluggish economy. The gap in salaries versus increases in the cost of living is oceans apart. No denying the hardship everywhere!

I could hear the anguish and gripes of working folks who have to weather it all. Their narrative or story is simply contained in two words: "High" and "Low." The first is about the high cost of basically everything, the latter is the low or stagnant wages for more than 10 years.

To illustrate a point: Let's say you're earning the minimum wage of \$5.50 an hour. You subtract 65 percent that includes increases in the cost of basic goods, power bills, health premiums, health deductibles, and gasoline at the pump, among other obligations. In actuality, your hourly income is reduced significantly down to about \$2.40 an hour. This sum is way below the federal definition of poverty income level. How does a family of four live with \$192 biweekly?

The reduction in income translates into search for family survival. It includes food coupons from NAP, NMHC housing voucher, Medicaid, and other federally funded programs designed to help families in poverty. Otherwise, they'd be out on the streets looking for both food and shelter. Is the CNMI a "welfare state"? Or did someone say corruption comes in a close second?

Juggling pennies

For many families, the juggle for payment on payday Fridays is CUC power bills or food. Many would pay the former relying on communal sharing for the other. This aspect of the culture shields a lot of families from hunger. They even share NAP food items with everyone. It has come down to "financial jungle fighting" for survival that could only be understood wearing cultural prism.

Communal sharing is an aspect of the local culture often misunderstood, especially by those who hail from other cultures. But it's intact and if you're quizzing why haven't anyone been rushed to CHC for hunger, it's because we share our food, abundantly. It's a unique thing in our tradition that has kept us happy campers all these years even in battered "better times."

Routines have gone basically undisturbed or weathered by most folks until you hit another woefully sensitive nerve: the high cost of health insurance. I've seen how families have pulled out of the program only to be met instantly with catastrophic illnesses. I'd cringe pondering what else is ahead of a very sick local population.

Thank God there's help from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the head of the program deserves community accolades for her proactivity meeting the needs of folks caught in this fatal dilemma. We're fortunate too there's Medicaid and Medicare, the latter for seniors. But how do we prop up money when Medicaid funds are depleted in the near future?

It's a heavily challenging task leadership must address well in advance. Otherwise, you could recite the "Our Father" and tons of mea culpa before a deficit strapped federal government severs the umbilical cord on food stamps and other entitlement programs. Even Kilili no longer issues laptops provided generously by Obama.

Folks with kids in colleges and universities have rekindled rugged individualism and gone to the family farm to work their gardens while raising farm animals. What's grown are for domestic consumption while they use fixed income to help their kids in off-island schools. I had to admire the placement of education of their children amidst the bad times. What sterling resiliency!

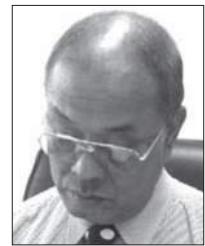
That things are okay is pure folly. But folks have drawn strengths from the wisdom of their experiences to weather the disastrous storm of economic disaster at home. I chanced asking for support for incumbents. It didn't settle well in the mind and faces of folks around the barbecue pit. I shifted gear and poked a joke and, as they were laughing, I scurried to my jeep and headed home. They were madder than hell!

In thoughtful meditation, I ventured another walk into romanti-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



cizing the future of the CNMI if we do the right things by doing it right. I could hear the distant echo of economic prosperity in "anchor investments." Its success, however, must come with a fully thought-out integrated socio-economic plan. Even with straight from the heart expressions from the simple folks at home I still remain bullish that together we can replace apathetic with conscious leadership to rebuild our canoe of hope.

Locals and corporate war

The pages of the newspapers are replete with advertisement or public relations pieces what the two casino applicants could do to "empower" the island. One hangs its hat with NMC, the other the trade institute in Lower Base. Call it instant soba assimilation!

At the center of the casino rotunda are local warriors boasting shiny swords, spears, and David's sling (*atupat*), ready to cut down anything and everything. They are there as pawns of corporate bosses sitting comfortably atop the judges' table waiting for the impending slugfest. What would be the results of this feud?

Casino would move into the island if legal calisthenics doesn't derail it on the way in. The only realistic remedy is to improve upon the law like opening it up for competition. The industry, though, can't be the main engine of the local economy other than settling as a component of tourism.

An issue of such magnitude requires insightful review beyond pipe dreams of millions of fish in boat that are still loose in the open waters.

What the tea party can learn from feminists

What can the tea party learn from the modern feminist movement?

Before you react with incredulity, consider that both movements have come to be viewed as outside the mainstream and hostile to dissenters and society at large.

Were someone to ask if you are a feminist, you'd probably say no, like the overwhelming majority of Americans, including more than 75 percent of women, who eschewed the characterization in a 2013 Huffington Post/YouGov poll.

Most Americans bear a similar aversion to today's tea party, of which only 30 percent held a favorable view in a Pew poll conducted in October.

What has relegated both movements to dwell in the dark corners of the public consciousness has little to do with what they actually stand for. (Raise your hand if you support equality and representative government!)

Instead, feminism, like the tea party, has failed to retain more mainstream support largely because vocal and often misguided members have co-opted the movement and perpetuated a fundamental misunderstanding of its long-held principles.

This has only served to misinform and undermine the movement's purposes, origins and ultimate goals.

Feminism, in particular, is laboring under self-inflicted misconceptions that provide valuable insight into how social movements can veer off course and how they can come back.

Tea partiers, take note.

Many contemporary self-identified feminists portray a movement that would be unrecognizable to its founders, but its failure to appeal to the majority of women is an even bigger problem.

Abandoning its once-sweeping, lofty objectives, modern feminism has been narrowly focused. It presents the world as a zero-sum game: Men and women are battling for finite resources, seeking "not just equality but precise, numerical equivalence," as unabashedly confused feminist Kay S. Hymowitz put it.

That kind of "equality of outcomes" fails to resonate with many mainstream women because it gives no consideration to personal strengths and choices and the underlying differences between the sexes that drive them.

Like the tea party, feminism's loudest defenders are motivated by highly divisive and controversial causes, propelled by a penchant for victimization, and direct their ire toward the half of the population whose support they will eventually need—but only when they are not attacking each other. As writer Esther J. Cepeda points out, "There's been a fair amount of bashing—perpetrated by women themselves—when certain women have openly declared themselves as non-feminists."

Note to the tea party: Alienating potential members is usually a path to extinction.

Some members of the pundit class like *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow assert that "it's very important for everyone to be a feminist." But universal conversion is unlikely to happen while turbulence and confusion about the moniker and its underlying ethos persists.

So its time to redefine the movement.

For *Freedom Feminism* author Christina Hoff Sommers, that means returning to its origins. She argues that a better understanding of the historical context in which the feminist movement developed might be its saving grace.

and MHS. My youngest son has lived here since '79. I've been in and out since. I lived in Pohnpei for 15 years, Majuro for five, Kiribati 3.5, Fiji for a year. I've lived in Guam six times since '58, Hawaii three times and the Philippines for more than 10 years since the early '90s. I've visited almost every inhabited island in the Pacific. I know firsthand the corruption and payoffs made by the missing fingered Japanese, the Koreans and Chinese and the people who received it. I told Hillbloom he was wrong and I know MIHA is ripping you taxpayers off right now and no one cares because it's just another "island thing." I can tell you stories. My point is that all of this is moot in June 2014. It's the past, telling stories about the glory days of sailing is fine but it shouldn't replace the reality we live in in 2014. Adults today talk at kids, down to kids but not "to" kids. We never ask what they want because we don't care. Just do as I say, it was OK for me and it will be OK for you.

Since 2010, when touch screen tablets and phones arrived, the

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



She explains that the two schools of feminist thought that evolved simultaneously—egalitarian feminism, which sought liberation by shedding traditional gender roles, and social or maternal feminism, which sought respect and influence by embracing femininity and gender roles—have served the interests of all women best when they were united in their goals and tactics.

Successful modern feminism should replicate this marriage of movements so that no woman feels left behind.

"Anyone who cares about improving the status of women around the world should be working to create a women's movement that resonates with women," Sommers says.

Fancy that.

The "reality-based, male-respecting, judicious feminism," that Sommers calls for would be true to its origins, inside the mainstream and welcoming to all—liberal, conservative, moderates and yes, even men.

That's a recipe for success that would benefit any worthwhile movement—including the tea party.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Mr. Olopai, I'll see you there

I am at the beach in CK almost every day and I will look you up. I talk to Carolinians almost every day and I see kids every day that are being denied the tools necessary to prosper in the 21st century. I saw *Song of the Navigator* in Honolulu, I met Mau on three occasions and talked to him about sailing. I flew over here in 1962 from Guam with Emmit Kelly. I rode the *Four Winds* over several times in '63 with goods that Joeten and MSV bought for their stores from me. I lived here for eight years in the late '70s and '80s, my kids graduated from WSR, Hopwood,

world is a totally different place and we need to accept it. Little Carolinian boys and girls are not being nurtured in skills needed to be much more than cannon fodder or grass cutters. When the height of a kid's ambition is to join the Army, this is unacceptable. JFK High School in Guam is about twice as large as MHS but their students have 700 times the number of uploads to YouTube, 2000 versus three, in the last year. This is the reality today, technology is here and it's staying. If Mau had a GPS when he was a kid he probably would have gone to Spain.

Something needs to be done to shake PSS to its old-fashioned core. I invite you to help me do it. I want 12,000 touch screen tablets to give to every kid on Saipan from kindergarten through 12th grade. Yeah, I know, that's about \$800,000 but I know a painless way to get it too. Incidentally, I live on S. Olapai Way. See you soon.

Gary DuBrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 66
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 74 ▼ 64
Osaka	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 59
Pusan	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 63
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 69
Salem	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 57
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲ 77 ▼ 62
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 78 ▼ 69
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 68

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Today	2:59 PM	2:12 AM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM	Tuesday	3:54 PM	2:57 AM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM	Wednesday	4:51 PM	3:45 AM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM	Thursday	5:51 PM	4:38 AM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM	Friday	6:52 PM	5:35 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

■ Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-

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■ For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5	UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5040	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5078	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044				UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL288	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SA				

CELEBRATION OF 70TH BATTLE OF SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Former Saipan resident writes about World War II MIA

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bruce M. Petty, an author of World War II books, is well on his way toward completing his newest book, *Missing in Action from the Pacific War*, which he wrote to find out from families of those missing after the war.

Back in the 1990s, when Petty lived on Saipan and was researching his first book, he kept hearing stories about people who disappeared during the fighting and were never seen again.

"Vicky Vaghan (Setchan Akiyama) for example, told me in her oral history interview how her father, Tomomitsu, became separated from the rest of the family during the fighting and was never seen again."

According to Petty, Carl Matthews, a Marine told him about men in their company



who were killed but for whatever reasons their bodies were either lost or not recovered, and as a result their families were notified that they were MIA (Missing in Action).

"Likewise, when interviewing a Carolinian woman (Petty said she can't remember her name), she mentioned that an entire family from Tanapag went missing during the fighting on Saipan and were never found," Petty said.

"One of my theories at the time was that the family may have been among those hiding in one of many caves that were sealed by Marines and soldiers," he added.

Petty came across several of these sealed caves in

the Tanapag area back in the 1990s.

"This same [Carolinian woman he spoke too] also told me that a brother of hers was wounded during the fighting and was later taken to a U.S. field hospital, but he was never seen again and nobody told them what happened to him," he said.

Petty said that according to John Dover in his book *Embracing Defeat*, the Japanese had at least a million Missing in Action, in addition to the millions who died. The United States has roughly 78,000 Americans still listed as MIA from World War II alone.

"That is more men than we lost in the Vietnam War," Petty said.

"Some years back I set out to write a book about The Missing in Action from the Pacific War. I made contact with families of World War II missing, as well as individuals and groups involved

in the search for wreck sites that might contain human remains," Petty said.

According to him, however, he concluded after about a year that the only way he could do an adequate job on such a book is if he travels extensively and at a great personal expense, "something I couldn't afford to do at the time, so I had to drop the project, at least as a book."

He didn't want to give up the idea entirely, so he now refers to his book as a work-in-progress.

"I continue to network with the families of the missing as well as individuals and groups involved in the search. More importantly, I now lecture all over the world, mostly on cruise ships, on MIA issues as well as other Pacific War topics," Petty said.

Whenever he gets on the subject of MIA, there is "almost always" at least one person in the audience who can identify with the subject. "Quite often because somebody in their fam-

ily of some family they know is among those many missing from WWII," Petty said.

Petty was born in Long Beach, Calif., in 1945 and grew up in California. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves at Alameda Naval Air Station in 1962 while still in high school. After graduation, he served two years aboard USS *Yorktown* as an aviation ordnance man, and is a Vietnam War veteran.

He later graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara, with a degree in history in 1972.

In 1995, along with his wife and children, he moved to Saipan, returning to California in 2000.

On Saipan, he wrote his first book, *Saipan: Oral Histories of the Pacific War*. Since then he has written three other books on World War II in the Pacific, the latest being New Zealand in the Pacific War.

For the past four years, Petty has been a Pacific War lecturer for Princess Cruises, and lives in New Plymouth, New Zealand.

Petty will also be doing a book signing at the one-day history conference on June 14 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The conference is part of the activities for the 70th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

'Disaster risk reduction must consider loss and damage to cultural heritage'



SUVA, Fiji—At its 26th meeting held in Fiji from May 27 to 29, members of the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture recognized the importance of improving the assessment of cultural damage after a natural disaster.

Paula Holland, resource economist in SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, told the Council that between 1983 and 2012, there were 615 natural hazard-related disaster events reported as causing harm in the Pacific. She said that post-disaster assessments are commonly limited to evaluating the physical damage to buildings and infrastructure, the effects on tourism-related earnings, and changes in commercial earnings. The impacts on cultural heritage are less well documented, as they focus on intangibles, such as loss of skills, destruction of irreplaceable history, and loss of biodiversity sites.

Holland told Council members that it is vital to convince governments and development partners to invest in risk management for culture and heritage. In order to do this, evidence of the costs sustained must be available. A post-disaster needs assessment currently under development is one way of achieving this. The methodology assesses the full economic impact of a disaster:

the socioeconomic cost of the event in terms of monetary values (damage and losses), assessment of other damage or loss which cannot be monetized, and an economic assessment of social impacts.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community, which serves as the secretariat for CPAC, proposes to establish a regional pool of experts in economic assessment of disasters. The initiative will target expertise in cultural, environmental and heritage assessments beyond physical damage,

where practical. As medium- to long-term national recovery planning is delivered by ministries of planning and finance, so it is necessary to persuade these ministries to mainstream cultural needs into national planning and budgets.

Meanwhile, people can identify, list and document lost and damaged cultural heritage, and publish this nationally, regionally and globally.

The Council agreed that identification of culture assessment experts would be useful for determining economic value of cultural assets for use after disasters. Economic recovery requires monetary resources to rebuild, reduce future risks, and increase economic and community resilience, and for this, information on cultural damage, and the cost of this damage must be known.

The topic of assessing and putting a value on cultural damage in order to persuade governments to include it in their planning and budgeting is of particular relevance as governments and development partners from around the region gather in Suva for the 6th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Management.

The 26th meeting of the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture was held at Vale ni Bose Levu Vakaturga in Suva, Fiji. The meeting chair was Guam (host of the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in 2016) and the vice chair was Hawaii (proposed host of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts in 2020). The Council discussed a wide range of issues relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts and promotion of the cultural sector in the region.

(SPC)

Delta Air Lines supports NMI Crime Stoppers



From left, NMI Crime Stoppers board members Pete Callaghan, Mernie Geisinger (ACS Pre-check staff), Chris Concepcion (Delta Air Lines), Brian Clayton, Jim Arenovski, Crime Stoppers International regional director, and Robert "Woody" Woodruff.

Delta Air Lines has provided the NMI Crime Stoppers program with \$1,000 in travel vouchers for its raffle prize as part of this year's fundraising effort. The raffle was held in conjunction with the NMI Crime Stoppers' annual fundraising softball tournament held this past weekend on June 7 and 8 at the Capital Hill Softball field.

"Delta Air Lines has been great supporter of the NMI Crime Stoppers Program for over 10 years and this year's donation is most welcome. The

\$1,000 Delta Air Lines voucher will be used to raise operation funds for the program," said Brian Clayton, chairman of the NMI Crime Stoppers Program.

"This year we offered \$1,000 in travel vouchers from Delta Air Lines, and with only 200 tickets at \$20 per ticket, the odds were great. There was a one in 200 chance of winning! We think these are the best odds for any raffle on the island and it goes to support a great cause," Clayton added. "We are hope-

ful to sell all the tickets for that would be such a huge help to our organization.

Other teams/sponsors included DFS, Aon, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, IP&E, Marpac, Pacific Amusement, Megabyte, Star Sands Plaza (I Love Saipan), CUC, PIC, and Brabu Pharmacy.

Crime Stoppers takes tips on its 234-7272 phone line or through its website www.nmicrimestoppers.net. The public can call in tips on any crime from burglary and theft to drug dealing and family violence. All

tips remain anonymous; you will never be asked your name or other personal information.

Crime Stoppers awards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Crime Stoppers works with local and federal law enforcement, the media, and the community to help prevent and solve crime in the NMI and surrounding islands.

For more information in the NMI Crime Stoppers or the fundraising effort contact Jim Arenovski at 287-7037. (*NMI Crime Stoppers*)

Two water sports firms to pay \$46K back wages

Two Saipan-based marine sport activity companies owned and operated by Toru Narita have agreed to pay \$46,065 in back wages to 15 employees for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage and overtime

provisions.

Investigators from the Wage and Hour Division found that Aqua Connections Inc. and Hi-Five Co. Ltd. failed to pay employees for all work done at the beginning and end of their shifts. The investigation cov-

ered a two-year period beginning in March 2012. One salaried non-managerial employee was not paid an overtime premium for hours worked beyond 40 in a workweek.

"All employees that are entitled to an overtime premium

must be paid in compliance with the FLSA's overtime provision regardless of whether they are paid on a salary basis or work beyond their scheduled shift," said Terence Trotter, the division's district director in Hawaii. (*USDOL*)

Guard battalion releases units after Afghanistan campaign

Two units from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment were released from duty June 8, signifying their 2013 Operation Enduring Freedom responsibilities have officially ended.

Echo Company, commanded by Capt. Joey San Nicolas, was deactivated June 8 during a ceremony at the Guam Guard's Barrigada headquarters. Foxtrot Company, led by Capt. Kristin Ramos, was detached by the battalion and sent back to its original status under the 105th Troop Command. The units were amongst the seven line companies that occupied all six NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan regions, serving as the largest mobilization in Guam history. Close to 600 Guam Army Guardsmen deployed for this purpose.

Echo was the most dispersed unit. Its presence was in five Afghanistan locations, as far east near the Pakistan border to deep within the country's capital, Kabul. The soldiers performed about 2,000 missions, serving as guardian angels, providing personal security and performing security forces. The company formed shortly before OEF with soldiers from other units.

"We were the most decentralized unit serving in Afghanistan and probably the busiest unit," San Nicolas said. "Echo wasn't organic to the 294th. But it was an outstanding opportunity to lead troops into battle. The most memorable thing was the entire



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Capt. Joey San Nicolas, left, commander, Echo Company, folds the unit flag with First Sgt. Duane Perez.

tour itself, working with great soldiers and great leaders."

Echo soldiers occupied 14 provinces.

Since returning home late December, Guam Guard leaders sought to return Echo soldiers to their original units.

As company commander, Ramos succeeded Maj. Florante Manaloto last September in Afghanistan.

She marked Guam history, becoming the first-ever female company commander deployed to a combat zone. She served as Foxtrot executive officer prior to her current position.

"Get everybody home," Ramos said after her change of command, on her No. 1 priority as leader. "It's the sign of the times. They're allowing females greater combat roles. It's a challenge, and I'm looking forward to being successful at it."

In Afghanistan, Foxtrot was stationed at Kandahar Airfield, one of the busiest locations in southern Afghanistan. Foxtrot completed more than 1,000 missions, serving as guardian angels, security forces and personal security.

During the ceremony, San Nicolas and 1st Sgt. Duane Perez, Echo first sergeant, furled the unit guidon and Perez marched off with it. This symbolized the unit's end.

The Guam battalion continues operations with Headquarters, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta companies, along with support elements. It remains the largest of all Guam National Guard units. (*Guam National Guard*)



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Capt. Joey San Nicolas hands the Echo Company unit guidon to Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, signifying the deactivation of his unit.



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Capt. Kristin Ramos, commander, F Co, leads the soldiers of her unit as they march from the ceremony signifying the detachment of F Co from the 1-294th Infantry Regiment.

Delfin takes command of 1st-294th Infantry Regiment

Less than a year after a historic Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment changed leadership June 7 at its main headquarters.

Lt. Col. Romeo Delfin takes helm of the Guam Guard's largest element, replacing Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, who commanded nearly 600 troops in Afghanistan throughout 2013. This marked the largest deployment in Guam history, a mission that concluded just six months ago.

"My biggest feeling today is how humbled I am to be serving with these fine soldiers who left their families on numerous occasions and numerous deployments," Delfin said. "Our main priority is something called Reset. This is to get soldiers and equipment ready in the event we get called again by our president and governor."

Delfin relinquishes his latest command of Recruiting and Retention. He served as 294th executive officer before Tougher's leadership and before the battalion's OEF mission.

Tougher will soon head to the U.S. Army War College, reporting to the Stanford University Hoover Institution as a National Security Affairs Fellow. In his somber farewell speech



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, right, and Lt. Col. Michael A. Tougher, outgoing commander, 1-294 IN REGT are led on an inspection of the troops by Maj. Rickey Flores, Executive Officer, 1-294 IN REGT.

to troops he commanded for three years, Tougher thanked several soldiers who directly supported his leadership, but voiced significant appreciation to his spouse, Wendy, for her support and contribution.

"I can name so many people that I am indebted as a leader. I send a special thank you to all who have contributed their time and efforts to enhance our organization," Tougher said. "I'm deeply grateful to my wife. I would probably be...wasting days at home if she did not give me the purpose, motivation and direction to see beyond my small world."

Tougher was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for

his tenure as battalion commander starting July 10, 2011. In his reign, he led the battalion to two annual trainings at Camp Roberts, Calif., for OEF train up. His leadership was challenged when the battalion dispersed into 15 locations in Afghanistan, yet successfully accomplished more than 12,000 missions and trekked above 105,000 miles through tough, dangerous roads.

Tougher's military career began in 1986 when he enlisted in the Guam Guard as an aircraft armament technician. He sought a career as an officer and in 1991, Tougher graduated from Officer Candidate School. He later accepted his

commission as a second lieutenant in the 294th, starting as a platoon leader.

Delfin accepts the challenge as the battalion's new leader but knows he has a tough road ahead. "I'm confident [to lead the battalion], but I am humbled. I'm extremely confident because we have great soldiers. I guide the ship, but if you don't have a strong engine...you can have the best leadership in the world but it doesn't matter. We have such a great group of soldiers, competent noncommissioned officers, and extremely competent officers. I'm confident this battalion will go to another level." (*Guam National Guard*)



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Lt. Col. Romeo Delfin, takes command of the 1-294 IN REGT, as he receives the battalion's guidon from Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino.



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS

Wendy Tougher, far right, is looking at the red roses she received in appreciation for the support she provided her spouse, Lt. Col. Tougher, during his tenure as commander, as especially throughout TF Guam's deployment. Maria Delfin, incoming spouse of Lt. Col. Romeo Delfin, received yellow roses. Also pictured are the Tougher's children, Michael, Lani and Quincy.

Business

US employers add jobs at a pace not seen since 1999

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time since 1999, American employers have added more than 200,000 jobs a month for four straight months, offering more evidence that the U.S. economy is steadily growing while much of Europe and Asia struggle.

Last month's gain of 217,000 jobs means the economy has finally recovered all the jobs lost to the Great Recession. And it coincides with indications that American consumers have grown more confident. Auto sales have surged. Manufacturers and service companies are expanding.

"I don't think we have a boom, but we have a good economy growing at about 3 percent," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo. "We're pulling away from the rest of the world."

Still, Friday's report from the Labor Department showed that pay remains subpar for many workers, millions who want full-time work are still stuck in part-time jobs and the number of people out of work for more than six months remains historically high.



In this April 23, 2014 photo, Luke Gill, of Quicken Loans, left, talks with job candidate Jasmine Boykins at a job fair at the Matrix Center in Detroit.

Monthly job growth has averaged 234,000 for the past three months, up sharply from 150,000 in the previous three. The unemployment rate, which is derived from a separate survey, matched April's 6.3 percent, the lowest in more than five years.

Investors seemed pleased. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 88 points.

Though the economy has regained the nearly 9 million jobs lost to the recession, more hiring is needed, because the working-age U.S. population has grown nearly 7 percent since the recession began. Economists at the liberal Economic Policy Institute estimate

that 7 million more jobs would have been needed to keep up with population growth.

In addition, average wages have grown only about 2 percent a year since the recession ended, well below the long-run average annual growth of about 3.5 percent.

And unemployment has fallen from a 10 percent peak in 2009 partly for an unfortunate reason: Fewer people are working or seeking work. The percentage of adults who either have a job or are looking for one remained at a 35-year low in May.

Yet the United States is faring far better than most other major industrial nations.

Delta to add 15 Airbus A321 aircraft

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines has reached an agreement with Airbus to purchase 15 A321 aircraft for delivery beginning in 2018. The economically efficient, proven-technology A321s will replace similar, less-efficient domestic aircraft that are being retired from Delta's fleet.

"This opportunistic aircraft order continues Delta's disciplined, capital efficient approach to fleet renewal," said Delta CEO Richard Anderson. "These new airplanes will improve the flying experience for our customers and benefit our shareholders."

Delta's first A321 will begin service in early 2016, with 20

First Class seats, 23 extra-leg-room seats in Economy Comfort and 149 seats in Economy, which are among the widest in the industry. Each A321 will feature in-flight Wi-Fi, industry leading in-flight entertainment with live satellite TV and on-demand options, and standard 110v power at every seat.

With today's announcement, Delta now has 45 A321s on order, aircraft that are common with the 126 Airbus narrowbody aircraft currently in the Delta fleet. All of Delta's Airbus narrowbody aircraft feature CFM56 engines produced by CFM International, a joint venture of General Electric Co. and

Sneecma (Safran) of France.

This aircraft order is consistent with the company's previously announced fleet and capital plans. Delta targets reinvesting approximately 50 percent of its operating cash flow back into the business, resulting in \$2 to \$3 billion of capital expenditures annually through 2018, with \$2.3 billion planned for 2014.

Delta Air Lines serves nearly 165 million customers each year. Additional information is available on delta.com, Twitter @Delta, Google.com/+Delta, Facebook.com/delta and Delta's blog takingoff.delta.com. (*Delta Air Lines*)

Gap to be 1st US retailer to enter Myanmar market

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Gap Inc. has announced plans to produce clothing in Myanmar, the first American retailer to enter the market since the Southeast Asian country began its transition to democracy three years ago.

Two factories in the commercial capital, Yangon, are reportedly producing vests and jackets for the company's Old Navy and Banana Republic brands. They will be ready for sale in the U.S. by this summer, according to a statement

released Saturday by the U.S. Embassy.

While Asian nations have long had a strong presence in Myanmar, it's only in the last few years that companies from North America and Europe have started returning, thanks to the easing of sanctions imposed on the country during its half-century of military rule.

There are plenty of obstacles in Myanmar, including electricity shortages and poor roads. But a cheap and abundant—though

poorly trained—labor force makes the country especially attractive to retailers.

"This is a historic moment for Myanmar," Wilma Wallace, a Gap vice president, said at a ceremony attended by the U.S. ambassador. "By entering Myanmar, we hope to help accelerate economic and social growth in the country, and build on our track record of improving working conditions and building local capacity in garment factories around the world."

Nation

FROM PRAYERS TO FURY The journey of Bowe Bergdahl

By MARTHA MENDOZA
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Bowe Bergdahl stands, hands at his sides, his loose-fitting Pashtun smock and pants bright white against the rocky landscape. The hillsides are dotted with armed Afghans, rifles ready.

Black Hawk appears in the clouds. After almost five years in captivity, the American soldier, head shaved, eyes blinking, is about to finally see freedom.

"We've been looking for you for a long time," a member of a special forces team shouts over the roar of the copter. Bergdahl breaks down.

It was supposed to be a moment for celebration, America's only military captive in the 13-year Afghan conflict free at last. And in his hometown in Idaho, where trees are bedecked with yellow ribbons and prayers never stopped, indeed it is.

But for the rest of the country, Bergdahl's capture and release have thrust him into a furious debate.

From members of Congress to his own former platoon mates, a storm of critics are livid because Bergdahl was captured after walking away from his post and then released in a swap for five Taliban prisoners. Some question whether soldiers died as part of efforts to save him.

"He's a deserter, in every sense of the word," said Evan Buetow, Bergdahl's former Army team leader, angered to see him heralded as a hero. "That's exactly the opposite of what he is."

Now, as Bergdahl prepares to head home, everyday Americans are left asking: Is he a victim? A traitor? Are we meant to empathize or admonish?

Bergdahl grew up with parents and older sister Sky amid the breathtaking peaks of the Sawtooth Mountains. The kids were homeschooled, and he received a GED from a local college. His father drove a UPS truck.

The blond, lanky kid grew up, by all accounts, an explorer near Hailey, Idaho, a town of 7,000 that offers a funky alternative to the nearby Sun Valley ski resort. He sparred with the Sun Valley Swords fencing club, danced with the Sun Valley Ballet School, loved his bicycle and sought adventures.

He bounced from job to job, on an Alaskan fishing boat, cleaning guns and stocking targets at the shooting club, crewing on a sailboat trip from South Carolina to California.



In this file image taken from video obtained from Voice Of Jihad Website, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, right, stands with a Taliban fighter in eastern Afghanistan.

From the librarian to the sheriff, everyone seemed to know and admire Bergdahl as he came of age.

"He was good every which way you looked at it," said the gun club manager, Dick Mandeville.

Bergdahl enlisted at 22 and, with just seven months of military training, was deployed to Afghanistan in February 2009 with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Their mission was to stop the Taliban. Beyond fighting, that meant patrolling villages, gathering intelligence, winning the confidence of locals, training the Afghan National Police. Bergdahl preferred the humanitarian aspect of the job, passing out food and medical supplies.

"He enjoyed helping the locals way more than he enjoyed doing all the ... actual combat side of a deployment," said platoon medic Josh Cornelison, 25, of Sacramento, California. "He wasn't so fond of that at all."

As months passed, Bergdahl began grousing to Buetow, his boss, about their mission. "You don't have to believe in it, but I need your mind clear if something happens," Buetow, 28, of Seattle recalled telling him.

Days before he disappeared, Bergdahl asked Buetow how to get the maximum amount of cash from his paycheck. He also wanted to mail home his computer and books.

"There were things he said that I didn't think too much of at the time, but when he walked away the lights started going off in all of our heads," said Buetow.

On June 27, 2009, Bergdahl sent his parents what

would be his final email from the field, condemning the military system and the mission in Afghanistan.

"The US army is the biggest joke the world has to laugh at. It is the army of liars, backstabbers, fools, and bullies," he told his parents, who later shared emails with Rolling Stone magazine.

His father responded: "Dear Bowe, In matters of life and death, and especially at war, it is never safe to ignore ones' conscience."

Three days later, at 5:30 a.m., a soldier went to wake Bergdahl for guard duty. Their platoon was living at an isolated post, a two-acre stretch of a riverbed, surrounded by wire. Bergdahl slept in a one-man pup tent. On this morning, his body armor and weapon were there. But Bergdahl was gone.

"Hey, is Bergdahl up there?" someone called. He wasn't.

A frantic search was launched through bunkers, latrines, vehicles, even Afghan National Police posts. Within a day a radio operator intercepted Afghans chatting about a new bargaining chip.

"I think he is a big shot," says one in a translated transcript posted on the whistleblower group WikiLeaks' website.

In another, an Afghan said an American was looking for someone who could speak English, and wanted to talk to the Taliban. Analysts believed he was being held by the Haqqani network, an insurgent group affiliated with the Taliban.

Within weeks, he public got its first glimpse of the missing soldier on a video posted by the Taliban. Asked how he was doing, Bergdahl quaked.

"Well I'm scared, scared I won't be able to go home."

Asia

3 PH senators charged with plunder

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine government prosecutors filed corruption charges Friday against three senators who allegedly received hundreds of millions of pesos (millions of dollars) in kickbacks from funds allocated for projects for the poor.

Former Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, former Senate Protempore Jinggoy Estrada and Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. were charged with plunder, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and is non-bailable.

Also charged were about half a dozen other people, including businesswoman Janet Napoles, who allegedly created dummy aid organizations used as fronts to receive government funds intended for agriculture and livelihood projects and from where the kickbacks were obtained.

The three senators have denied involvement in the scam, which triggered public outrage and a massive anti-corruption rally last year. Another rally has been scheduled for next week.

A lawyer for Revilla, who is a former action movie actor, said he would ask the anti-graft court to first review the evidence and not to immediately issue arrest warrants.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales asked the Supreme Court to create at least two spe-

cial divisions of the anti-graft court for the trials because of the “far-reaching consequences” of the cases. She said additional graft charges would be filed next week.

The three senators are among the most senior state officials charged since President Benigno Aquino III took office in 2010 after winning election on an anti-corruption and anti-poverty platform.

Aquino’s predecessor, Gloria Arroyo, is in hospital detention on criminal charges and her appointee as Supreme Court chief

justice, Renato Corona, was impeached after he was found allegedly hiding much of his assets.

Abigail Valte, a presidential spokeswoman, said the filing of the charges against the senators was “a step forward in the determination of the truth, which will be the basis for exacting accountability under our justice system.”

The government ombudsman, who prosecutes state officials and employees accused of wrongdoing, filed the charges a year after the scam involving the Philippine Development Assistance Fund was exposed.



CHEER UP, THAILAND!

In this June 4, 2014 photo, Thai soldiers smile during an event called “Return Happiness to the People” at Bangkok’s Victory Monument, Thailand. The military junta that seized power here last month has no plans to return power to the people any time soon. But it has launched an official campaign to bring back something else this divided nation desperately needs - happiness.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea says it is holding an American tourist

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has detained a 56-year-old man from Ohio, accusing him of an unspecified crime after he traveled to the communist-led country as a tourist, the nation’s state news agency and the man’s family said. The North is now holding three Americans. The state-run Korean Central News Agency identified the latest detainee as Jeffrey Edward Fowle. It said Friday that he arrived in North Korea on April 29 and authorities were investigating him for committing acts inconsistent with the purpose of a tourist visit. It did not give details. U.S. officials confirmed the detention but didn’t identify the person for privacy reasons, nor comment on reports that he was held after leaving a Bible in his hotel room. A spokesman for the family said Fowle, who is married with three children, was not on a mission for his church.

Pakistan teen shot, thrown in canal over marriage

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An 18-year-old Pakistani woman “miraculously survived” after being shot and thrown into a canal by her father for marrying against the family’s wishes, police said Saturday, describing the latest in a series of such attacks on women in the Muslim-majority country. The assault on Wednesday came days after a 25-year-old woman was beaten and stoned to death by her family for marrying a man they did not approve of, one of hundreds of so-called “honor killings” carried out every year in Pakistan against women accused of bringing shame to their conservative families through sexual transgressions. Local police officer Ali Akbar said the teenager’s father, with help from some of his close relatives, attacked her in Hafizabad, a conservative city 200 kilometers (120 miles)

southeast of the capital Islamabad.

Death toll climbs to 81 in Afghan flooding

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—More than 80 bodies have been found two days after a devastating flash flood in Afghanistan’s mountainous and remote north, a provincial official said Sunday, as police and villagers scoured the rugged terrain for missing people and Army helicopters flew in supplies to thousands left homeless by the disaster. Lt. Fazel Rahman, the police chief in the Guzirga-i-Nur district of Baghlan province, said the death toll from Friday’s flash flooding had climbed to 81 from 54. He said 850 houses across several villages were completely destroyed and more than 1,000 were damaged by the heavy rain and flooding, leaving thousands of people in need of shelter, food, water and medicine.

Indians riot as heat wave prompts power cuts

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Thousands of people enraged by power cuts during an extreme heat wave rioted across northern India, setting electricity substations on fire and taking power company officials hostage, officials said Saturday. The impoverished state of Uttar Pradesh has never had enough power for its 200 million people. But recent temperatures that soared to 47 degrees Celsius (117 Fahrenheit) have caused power demand to spike at 11,000 megawatts—far higher than the state’s 8,000 MW capacity—triggering blackouts that shut down fans, city water pumps and air conditioners. Thousands of people stormed an electricity substation Friday near the state capital of Lucknow, ransacking offices and taking several workers hostage for 18 hours until police intervened Saturday morning, state utility official Narendra Nath Mullick said.

World

Poroshenko is new Ukraine president

KIEV, Ukraine

(AP)—Ukraine’s new president on Saturday called for pro-Russian rebels in the country’s east to lay down their arms and welcomed dialogue with the insurgents, but said he wouldn’t negotiate with those he called “gangsters and killers” and struck a defiant tone on the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula.



Poroshenko

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said was allotted to Ukraine unjustly under Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Hours after the speech, Putin ordered security tightened along Russia’s border with Ukraine to prevent illegal crossings, Russian news agencies said. Ukraine claims that many of the insurgents in the east have come from

Russia; Poroshenko on Saturday said he would offer a corridor for safe passage of “Russian militants” out of the country.

Rebel leaders in the east dismissed Poroshenko’s speech.

“At the moment it’s impossible for him to come (to Donetsk for talks),” said Denis Pushilin, a top figure in the self-declared Donetsk People’s Republic. “Perhaps with security, a group, so people won’t tear him to pieces.”

Bombs kill 52 as gunmen storm university in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A series of car bombs exploded across Iraq’s capital Saturday night, killing at least 52 people in a day of violence that saw militants storm a university in the country’s restive Anbar province and take dozens hostage, authorities said.

The attacks in Baghdad largely focused on Shiite neighborhoods, underscoring the sectarian violence now striking at Iraq years after a similar wave nearly tore the country apart following the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Now with U.S. troops gone, Iraq finds itself fighting on fronts across the country, as separate clashes in a northern city killed 21 police officers and 38 militants, officials said.

The first Baghdad attack began with militants killing three police officers on guard at the gates

AP Interview: Druse head scorns Hezbollah on Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—The decision by Lebanon’s militant Hezbollah group to join the civil war in neighboring Syria and fight along President Bashar Assad’s forces was a historic and moral “mistake” toward the Syrian people, a leading Lebanese politician has said.

The harsh criticism by Walid Jumblatt, who leads Lebanon’s minority Druse sect, reflects his increasing pessimism about the bloody conflict next door, now in its fourth year.

Although he leads a minority sect, Jumblatt is a pillar and a mainstay in Lebanese politics and is often referred to as the country’s “kingmaker” because of his small bloc’s track record of tipping the balance during key votes in parliament.

“Hezbollah intervened in

took place Saturday night in the capital’s western Baiyaa district, killing nine people and wounding 22, police said. Later on, seven car bombs in different parts of Baghdad killed at least 41 people and wounded 62, police said. A roadside bomb in western Baghdad also killed two people and wounded six, police said. All the attacks happened in a one-hour period and largely targeted commercial streets in Shiite neighborhoods, authorities said.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details to journalists.

The day began with militants killing three police officers on guard at the gates

Syria and did not care about the Lebanese (public) opinion,” Jumblatt told The Associated Press during a recent interview at his home in Beirut. “This is a historical and moral mistake toward the Syrian people.”

Hezbollah’s fighters openly entered the fight in Syria in May 2013 and were instrumental in helping Assad’s troops push back rebels and re-capture strategic towns and rebel strongholds along the border with Lebanon and near Syria’s capital, Damascus.

This turned the tide in the conflict, giving Assad’s forces the upper hand against the rebels seeking to overthrow the Syrian leader, who last week won a third seven-year term in a presidential election derided as a farce by the opposition.

Poroshenko offered amnesty to rebels who “don’t have blood on their hands.” But “I don’t believe it,” said Valery Bolotov, the insurgent leader in the Luhansk region. Rebels in both Luhansk and Donetsk have declared their regions independent.

The new president promised “I will bring you peace,” but did not indicate whether Ukrainian forces would scale back their offensives against the insurgency, which Ukraine says is fomented by Russia.

Russia has insisted on Ukraine ending its military operation in the east. Ambassador Mikhail Zurabov, representing Moscow at the inauguration, said Poroshenko’s statements “sound reassuring,” but “for us the principal thing is to stop the military operation,” adding that the insurgents should also stop fighting in order to bolster the delivery of humanitarian aid, RIA Novosti reported.

of Anbar University, a police and a military official said. Islamic extremists and other anti-government militias have held parts of Anbar’s nearby provincial capital of Ramadi and the city of Fallujah since December amid rising tensions between Sunni Muslims and the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

The gunmen detained dozens of students inside a university dorm during their attack, the officials said. Sabah Karhout, the head of Anbar’s provincial council, told journalists that hundreds of students were inside the university compound when the attack started at the school. Anbar University says it has more than 10,000 students, making it one of the country’s largest.

Now, the Syrian civil war will be ‘very long,’ Jumblatt said.

Instead of fighting in Syria, he said Hezbollah should have focused on archenemy Israel.

“I say that the guns should be directed toward the Israeli enemy,” Jumblatt added.

Jumblatt—whose Druse are like Assad’s Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam—has been known for his shifting loyalties. His history with Hezbollah has been both complex and full of U-turns.

After the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Jumblatt sharply criticized Hezbollah and the Syrian government, which many in Lebanon blamed for the killing. Damascus denies it was behind Hariri’s slaying.

Focus

China makes inroads in the Bahamas with MEGA-RESORT

By MIMI WHITEFIELD
THE MIAMI HERALD



A view of the Bahia Mar development on Cable Beach in Nassau, Bahamas. The resort is slated to open in December 2014.

MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Cement mixers from China and construction equipment rumble next to a premier strip of white sandy beach as thousands of Chinese workers labor to complete a \$3.5 billion resort project at famed Cable Beach.

Bahamian officials hope that the Bahia Mar project—four new hotels, 200,000 square feet of convention space, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course and a casino with a 50-foot glass water wall and a Vegas-style show lake—will transform Bahamian tourism, putting it on the map as a world-class gaming destination.

Bahia Mar developers plan to have the mega-resort open by mid-December, just in time for the winter tourism season.

Bahia Mar has amassed some of the world's most famous hospitality brands to operate its hotels. The centerpiece, the 1,000-room Bahia Mar Casino & Hotel, will be managed by Global Gaming Asset Management, which has developed gambling resorts from Las Vegas to Manila.

There also will be a 750-room Grand Hyatt, a 300-room Mondrian Hotel and a 200-room Rosewood Hotel. The Spanish hotel operator Melia recently took over operations of the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort at Cable Beach and is running it as a Melia hotel. When renova-

tion of the 694-room property is completed, it too will become part of the Bahia Mar brand, operating as the all-inclusive Melia at Bahia Mar.

But Bahia Mar is also noteworthy because of the extensive Chinese involvement in the high-profile project. Not only is the Export-Import Bank of China providing the bulk of the financing, China State Construction Engineering Corp. is the general contractor.

It's all part of China's growing economic and business reach in the developing world. Chinese investment in South America, for example, tops \$89 billion, according to the American Enterprise Institute and the Heritage Foundation.

And in 2011, China pledged \$1 billion in loans for development in the Caribbean—not including Bahia Mar.

Even before ground was broken for the new Bahia Mar hotels, the Cable Beach area underwent extensive renovations.

Congested West Bay Street, which ran right through the middle of the project, was rerouted and a new half-moon-shaped boulevard called Bahia Mar was carved out to serve the resort. Three banks and a fire and police station that were in the footprint of the resort were relocated to new facilities.

Even the Prime Minister's office, which sat at what is now the entrance to Bahia Mar, was sent packing and is now ensconced

in a nearby leased building.

"It's called transformation," said Robert Sands, a senior vice president for Bahia Mar Ltd. Developer Sarkis Izmirlian, chairman and chief executive of Bahia Mar, "didn't just want hotels on the beach; he wanted a destination," he said.

"A lot of focus will be on the gaming aspect," Sands said.

But the upscale resort, the largest tourism project under development in the Western Hemisphere, is something of a gamble.

It depends on filling the resort's 2,200 new rooms and

the nearly 700 refurbished rooms at the Melia—and attracting visitors from markets where the Bahamas hasn't traditionally been strong.

One of them is Asia—and to capitalize on the Asian high-rollers it hopes to attract to its new casino, air links from Asia, the U.S. mainland and around the world will need to be expanded.

Bahia Mar has already opened an Asian business development office in Hong Kong's central business district. But the Bahamian tourism industry is U.S.-centric: In 2010, for example,

nearly 80 percent of visitors to the Bahamas came from the United States.

While the lion's share of visitors will still come from North America, Sands said, Bahia Mar hopes to increase the Asian percentage while also reaching out to upscale Europeans, Latin Americans and Asians living in North America.

Tourism Minister Obediah Wilchcombe said he plans a trip to China in March to drum up interest. The Bahamas, he said, also is courting visitors from Brazil and Russia and hopes to be able to announce additional

airlift from some of the new markets by June or July.

With an eye toward welcoming many more visitors, the Bahamas recently completed a \$400 million renovation and expansion of Lynden Pindling International Airport. But the summer season was slow: From January to October 2013, the number of overnight visitors fell to 1.14 million—5.3 percent off the pace of the previous year.

More than a decade ago, Prime Minister Perry Christie began looking for a developer to revive Cable Beach, once known as the Bahamian Riviera, and talks began with Izmirlian.

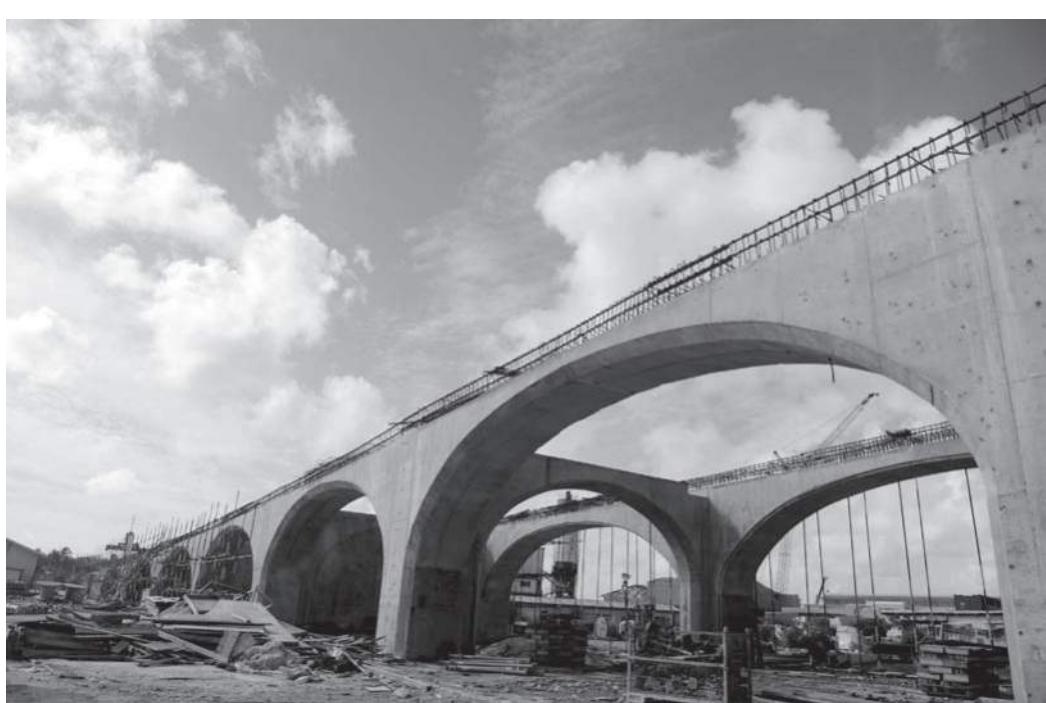
The project survived a change in government and then another that returned Christie to power in 2012. But it was almost derailed after financing dried up during the global recession.

Enter China as the white knight. After some 30 months of negotiations, the Export-Import Bank of China in early 2011 stepped in to provide \$2.4 billion in financing for the 1,000-acre project.

China State Construction Engineering Corp., the largest construction company in China, made the introduction and also is investing \$150 million in the project. As part of the package, thousands of Chinese workers were brought in.

While Bahamians did the bulk of the Bay Street prep

Continued on Next Page



The elevated roadway to the Bahia Mar entrance. The project has some of the world's most famous hospitality brands to operate its hotels.

MIAMI HERALD/MCT

MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Bahamian Junkanoo performers and Chinese Lion Dance members celebrate a fusion of cultures during the Baha Mar Groundbreaking Ceremony in Nassau, The Bahamas.



From Page 17

work, now many of the workers installing windows, pouring concrete and building the swimming pools are Chinese. The concrete alone to build Baha Mar equals four Empire State buildings, and the sand used to renourish Cable Beach would fill 34 NFL fields.

So far, 3,000 work permits have been issued to Chinese workers, said Sands.

Around the seaside work site, signs in English and Chinese remind workers that safety comes first—"Safety is gainful, accident is painful." And an electronic sign at the entrance to the main camp of low-slung, blue-roofed buildings where the Chinese workers live reminded them recently they had 294 work days left until completion of the project. "Strive for 120 days and make huge progress," it exhorted.

The issue of Chinese labor vs. Bahamian labor has been a sensitive one in this island nation of 372,000 people, where the latest published unemployment rate was 16.2 percent.

Some \$600 million worth of contracts have been set aside for bids by Bahamanian companies and 2,600 construction jobs have been created for Bahamians, Sands said.

While the use of Chinese construction workers was something of a fait accompli, Bahamians have now set their sights on getting jobs to operate the resort.

"Anytime you talk about bringing in foreign workers, people will always have something to say about it. Baha Mar will give work to Bahamians, and that is a very good thing," said Leyland Cash, manager of the Twin Brothers restaurant at Fish Fry, a collection of fish and seafood restaurants

about six miles down the road from Baha Mar.

A former bank building has been turned into a recruitment center for future Baha Mar workers. So far, more than 9,000 applications have come in for the 4,000 positions needed at the resort's opening, Sands said. "That's the true economic impact of this project," he said.

China has been involved in other tourism projects around the world, but this is the first such venture in the Western Hemisphere—and it may not be its last. The project, which broke ground in February 2011, is seen as something of a resumebuilding experience for the Chinese construction company.

The Chinese received temporary import permits to bring in construction equipment, said Ryan Pinder, the Bahamas Minister of Financial Services and Trade. But it may not return to China. "I doubt this is a one-shot deal for China Construction," Pinder said.

There's also another Chinese connection at Baha Mar. At the heart of the resort will be a 100,000-square-foot casino with 1,500 slot machines, 150 gaming tables and five VIP gambling rooms that developers hope will appeal to Asian high-rollers. But with an Asian casino building boom in recent years, they have many options closer to home.

To sweeten the prospect for Chinese visitors, the Bahamas and China signed a visa waiver agreement in January that will allow Chinese tourists to travel to the Bahamas and Bahamians to go to China for up to a month without securing a visa.

"That helps a lot," said Scott Brush, a hospitality industry consultant, "but a lot depends on people's ability to get there. How well Baha Mar does depends on how well they can

market" and whether they can convince Asian travelers "the destination is worth the trip."

The Bahamian government alone has committed \$20 million to marketing Baha Mar in the first year, Wilchcombe said.

When Malaysia's Genting Resorts World rolled into Miami in 2011 with plans to build the world's largest casino and resort on Biscayne Bay, it too said it wanted to attract Chinese gamblers. But after encountering static from the Florida Legislature in its attempt to have Vegas-style gambling legalized, Genting has announced scaled-back plans for its site in downtown Miami.

It now says it hopes to get the OK for a partnership with Gulfstream racetrack that would allow it to open a 2,000-slot machine resort and offer off-track betting as it continues to work on getting full-scale gambling.

Sands said whatever Genting ends up doing in Miami—some 185 miles from Nassau—won't put it in head-to-head competition with Baha Mar's casino.

"We view all gaming across North America as competition," said Sands, "but we're an exotic island destination. You don't have the same beach and sun experience in a downtown Miami that you have here."

Across an expanse of turquoise water from Baha Mar sits another potential competitor: Atlantis, a 3,414-room resort on Paradise Island. It is bigger than Baha Mar but was built in three stages rather than in one fell swoop like its Cable Beach counterpart.

With its mammoth artificial beach, water slides that drop from a Mayan-style temple, mile-long water ride that meanders through the resort and tens of thousands of fish and other marine life from around the world, Atlantis set the tone

for Bahamian tourism when it opened in 1998.

The Paradise Island resort, which completed a debt restructuring in spring 2012, also has a casino with 90 gaming tables and 750 slot machines and operates a race and sports book.

Analysts say another big question for the Bahamas is whether Baha Mar will complement Atlantis, bringing in more nontraditional tourists, or whether it will cannibalize it and compete for the same visitors.

Which scenario plays out will go a long way in determining how realistic Baha Mar's economic-impact projections are.

Sands says the two resorts will complement each other: "Baha Mar will focus on the adult market. That's the differentiator between ourselves and Atlantis. We're adult-focused, family-friendly. They are family-focused, adult-friendly."

George Markantonis, president and managing director of Atlantis, Paradise Island, also says the resorts can co-exist: "An addition of a new resort is good news for the country and will attract new visitors to the destination, which will ultimately benefit both resorts."

When the Baha Mar casino is completed, the gaming license will be transferred from the Crystal Palace Casino at the Wyndham Nassau Resort on Cable Beach.

It was state-of-the-art when it opened in the late 1980s, and high-rollers could even rent a \$25,000-a-night suite with a robot to fetch towels. But on a recent afternoon, there were only 11 customers playing the slots in the tired-looking casino or sitting at electronic gaming tables where a virtual dealer pops up on a screen to deal cards.

"The truth is every 10 years you have to increase your in-

ventory and improve your product," Wilchcombe said. In the 1990s, the big new thing was Atlantis, he said.

In the intervening years as some of its Caribbean neighbors built up their stock of hotel rooms, the Bahamas didn't. Now, Wilchcombe said, the time is ripe for expansion. "We believe Baha Mar will be setting the pace for the next 10 or 20 years," he said.

Atlantis and Baha Mar casinos may become competitors, but there won't be any Bahamians playing at either of them. It's illegal for Bahamians or Bahamas residents to gamble—although an illegal numbers game flourishes in the islands.

While Atlantis revolves around recreating the myth of the lost city of Atlantis, Baha Mar will strive to highlight the Bahamian experience.

"Every piece of art in these hotels will be Bahamian," Sands said. An alliance with the National Gallery of the Bahamas and the Don Davis Collection means "Baha Mar will have perhaps the largest collection of Bahamian art in the country."

Baha Mar recently put out a pamphlet touting the resort as an investment that is paying off for all Bahamians. When the project was topped off last February, Christie declared that Baha Mar "is another step toward securing the future of our country."

The developers released a report by Oxford Economics last June that showed the project accounted for 5 percent of the annual gross domestic product in the Bahamas in both 2011 and 2012. The report estimated that once the gambling resort is operational, on average it will account for 12.8 percent of GDP.

"Baha Mar is expected to generate literally billions of dollars in economic benefits," said Izmirlian. "This creates real

opportunities for Bahamians—jobs, training, entrepreneurship and economic mobility."

For Lucy Poitier, a merchant at the Pompey Village straw market, such benefits can't come soon enough. The new marketplace of gaily painted wooden buildings and a small bar sits at the entrance to Baha Mar and replaces two straw markets that were on the site.

"Where they're building is where we were, but the straw market burned down," said Poitier, 65, who has been selling T-shirts and other souvenir items for 48 years. "Baha Mar is going to be good; it's good for the economy; we'll have more employment."

Right now, she's miffed about a security alert from the U.S. Embassy in Nassau warning American citizens to be on "heightened alert" when traveling to the Bahamas because of a spike in crime, including the murder of two U.S. citizens in the past eight months.

"There's crime the world over. It's safe here," Poitier said.

And she is looking forward to the December opening of Baha Mar. "Oh yeah, it will be ready. They are working around the clock, you know."

But with its 30 restaurants, boutiques, bars and nightclubs and two spas, will Baha Mar be a self-contained Las Vegas on the beach and cut into sales of other businesses outside its confines?

Cash, the Twin Brothers manager, doesn't think so. Patrons will still want the authentic Fish Fry atmosphere, he said, and come for Twin Brothers' cracked conch, snapper and blended-from-scratch daiquiris.

"We have our own clientele—a very good clientele that is about 20 percent local," Cash said. "It's not going to bother us."

Health & Fitness

Rural clinics increasingly turn to telemedicine

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WAGNER, S.D. (AP)—Fifty years in farming had given Tom Soukup a few brushes with his own mortality, but after a cow pinned him against a wall, death felt closer than ever. He lay on the muddy ground and began to pray, every gasp feeling like a stab to the chest.

Although the nearest clinic was just a 10-minute drive from Soukup's South Dakota ranch, the doctor on duty did not have much experience treating such injuries. He had rarely inserted chest tubes and wanted guidance from another physician without having to consult a medical reference book.

So the clinic in tiny Wagner connected by video to doctors in Sioux Falls, who talked him through the steps to stop the bleeding and drain the blood collecting inside the 72-year-old man back in March 2010.

It's a system that's gaining wider use across the rural U.S., where there are often few primary care doctors and even fewer emergency rooms. Although so-called telemedicine has been around for at least two decades, the practice is fast becoming a standard feature in many small communities, even as other public services such as police and fire protection decline.

Soukup watched the monitor on the wall as the "doctor in Sioux Falls was telling the doctor down here how to do that procedure."

A growing number of South Dakota health care providers are being assisted

by a 24-hour emergency medicine hub based in Sioux Falls that uses two-way audio and video feeds.

The operator, Avera Health, has a telemedicine network that includes 86 hospitals in seven states in the West and Midwest. It expects to have contracts with 100 facilities by the end of the year.

The rapid expansion in telemedicine has led facilities to link up with providers well beyond their immediate region.

"The fact that they are going across state lines was almost unheard of 10 years ago," said Jonathan Linkous, chief executive of the American Telemedicine Association.

Since the first hospitals were connected in 2008, Avera's system has hosted more than 9,500 video encounters—about 4,000 within the last 12 months.

Not all of the hospitals connected to the network are part of Avera Health, and they must pay for the equipment and a yearly rate for the service.

The operator declined to provide the average cost of the service, citing competitive reasons. But Avera's senior vice president of quality initiatives, Deanna Larson, said the amount each hospital pays is less than the average salary of an emergency physician, which is about \$270,000, according to industry estimates.

North Dakota has 29 facilities connected to the network, the largest number of any state. South Dakota has 23 connections, and Minnesota has 18.

When Soukup arrived at the clinic, nurses and the doctor on

call quickly concluded that the 1,400-pound cow had punctured one of his lungs. Within seconds, they connected with the e-Emergency service with the push of a button on a wall.

The Sioux Falls staff guided Soukup's physician as he made a 1-inch incision between the ribs, pushed a finger through muscles and cleared the way for a tube.

At the same time, nurses in Sioux Falls charted all medications administered to Soukup, allowing the Wagner nurses to keep their hands on the patient instead of jotting down notes. A Sioux Falls physician located a helicopter to pick up the patient and transferred his record to the receiving hospital, expediting the transport and avoiding duplication of tests.

That kind of organization is especially helpful when multiple victims arrive at a rural facility, said Dr. Timothy Taylor, a doctor at a clinic in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Because the clinic is in an isolated resort area, "we can be overwhelmed in an instant," Taylor said, explaining that the e-services allow the staff to coordinate patient care with a nurse if Taylor is tied up with another patient.

Wagner, a one-stoplight town with a handful of gas stations, one pharmacy and a phonebook dominated by a few last names, is 110 miles from Sioux Falls, home to the nearest trauma center.

For Bryan Slaba, CEO of the Wagner hospital, Avera's telemedicine service has helped him recruit and retain medical residents and physicians.

"The younger docs embraced it because they have all the sup-



AP

In this March 28, 2014 photo South Dakota rancher Tom Soukup looks at a video monitor at a hospital in Wagner, S.D., that connects its clinic with Avera Health physicians in Sioux Falls, SD.

port mechanism around them when they're going through residency," said Slaba, whose hospital joined the network in 2008 with the help of a federal grant. "They get out in this rural com-

munity, and they look around and there's nobody around for 60 miles."

Soukup made a full recovery but now leaves most of the farmwork to his son-in-law so

he can spend winters in Arizona with his wife, Linda.

"Fifteen years ago," Linda Soukup said, "this probably would have had a different outcome."

Michigan teen begins 40-mile trek carrying brother

TEMPERANCE, Mich. (AP)—A 14-year-old Michigan boy set out on a 40-mile trek on Saturday with his 7-year-old brother strapped to his back, hoping to raise awareness about the muscular condition that prevents the younger boy from being able to walk without help.

Hunter Ganee, with 50-pound Braden securely strapped to his back, left shortly after 8 a.m. from the parking lot of Bedford Junior High School in Temperance, which is near the Ohio border. They hoped to arrive Sunday at their destination, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Surrounding the Ganees were dozens of family, friends and community members, many of whom released balloons into the sky as the walk commenced.

Called the Cerebral Palsy Swag, the trek's goal is to raise awareness for the muscle

disorder that afflicts Braden and to grab the attention of the next generation of leaders, doctors, engineers and entrepreneurs and show them the face of cerebral palsy and the need for new ideas in mobility aides and medical procedures.

The walk has already gained quite a bit of attention.

"We've gotten contacted by the lead singer of Megadeth, and he's supporting us and donating. We've gotten contacted by the Detroit Tigers, and they're on board and supporting us. Whole bunches of different people," Hunter said.

Even students from a rival middle school, Jefferson, raised \$700.

The family is not asking for donations, but for those interested, they are being directed to the University of Michigan Cerebral Palsy Research Program. Hunter raised \$350 for

the program through the sale of green wristbands at his school in March.

Braden typically uses a walker, braces or a power chair to get around. On Saturday morning, the 50-pound boy was all smiles from his position perched on his big brother's back.

"Thank you guys for coming out. Thank you for your support. It means so much to us," Braden said from the stage during a pre-walk pep rally in the school gym.

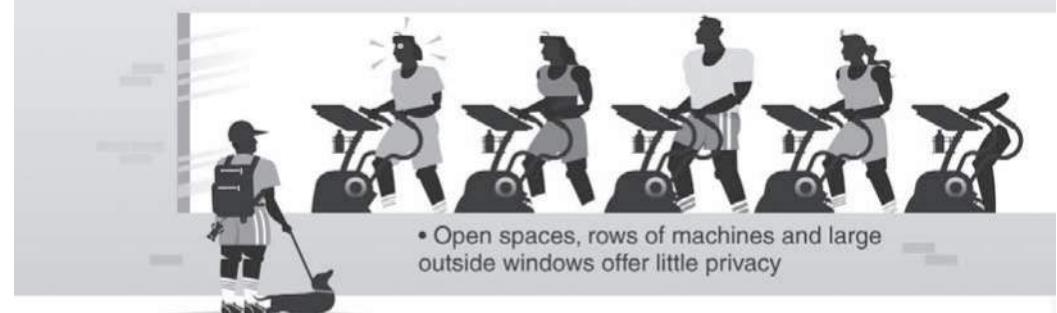
Hunter, a 155-pound wrestler, said he trained by lifting weights and staying active. He predicted that the love and support he received at the rally and in the days and weeks preceding it will "push us through."

Braden, meanwhile, said he has faith that Hunter can get them to Ann Arbor.

"My brother is awesome," he said.

Personal Trainer Gym intimidation

Commercial health clubs and gyms can be intimidating to exercise novices; why they can seem that way and where to find alternatives:



- Open spaces, rows of machines and large outside windows offer little privacy



- Aggressive salespeople
- Beautiful, toned people who make novices feel hopeless
- Hardcore exercisers with little patience for beginners



Places that may feel more comfortable

- YMCAs, YWCAs and Jewish community centers
- Hospital-based fitness centers
- Local recreation centers
- Trainers with private studios
- Women-only clubs

Source: Your Guide to Exercise by Paige Waehler
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Comedian Tracy Morgan injured in fatal crash

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—Actor and comedian Tracy Morgan was critically injured Saturday after a tractor-trailer rammed into his chauffeured limousine bus, setting off a chain-reaction crash that left a fellow comedian dead and two others seriously hurt, authorities said.

A truck driver from Georgia was charged with death by auto in the crash that killed a man described as a mentor to the former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" cast member as the group traveled home from a standup comedy show in Delaware, officials said.

James McNair, 62, of Peekskill, New York, who performed as Jimmy Mack, died after the Mercedes limo bus carrying seven people overturned on the New Jersey Turnpike near Cranbury Township at about 1 a.m., state police Sgt. 1st Class Greg Williams said.

Morgan, 45, and Jeffrey Millea, 36, of Shelton, Connecticut, were flown from the accident scene to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, where they were in critical condition, hospital spokesman Peter Haigney said.

Morgan remained in the intensive care unit at the hospital Saturday night and spokesman Lewis Kay said that his family was with him and he was "receiving excellent care."

A fourth passenger, comedian Ardie Fuqua Jr., was also in critical condition, while a fifth passenger, comic Harris Stanton, was treated and released, Haigney said. Two others in the limo were unhurt, including the driver.

Middlesex County prosecutors said 35-year-old Kevin Roper, of Jonesboro, Georgia, also faces four counts

of assault by auto. His bail was set at \$50,000, and he was expected to turn himself in later Saturday. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney.

Williams said the tractor-trailer driver apparently failed to slow for traffic

ahead and swerved at the last minute to avoid a crash. But it smashed into the back of the limo, prompting a chain-reaction crash with a second tractor-trailer, an SUV and two cars.

The National Transportation Safety

Board said it was working with state police to look at any issues in the crash related to commercial trucking and limousine safety.

Walmart President Bill Simon said in a statement a Walmart truck was involved and that the company "will take full responsibility" if authorities determine that its truck caused the accident.

"We're praying for the family and friends of the passenger who lost his life in the terrible accident," the statement said.

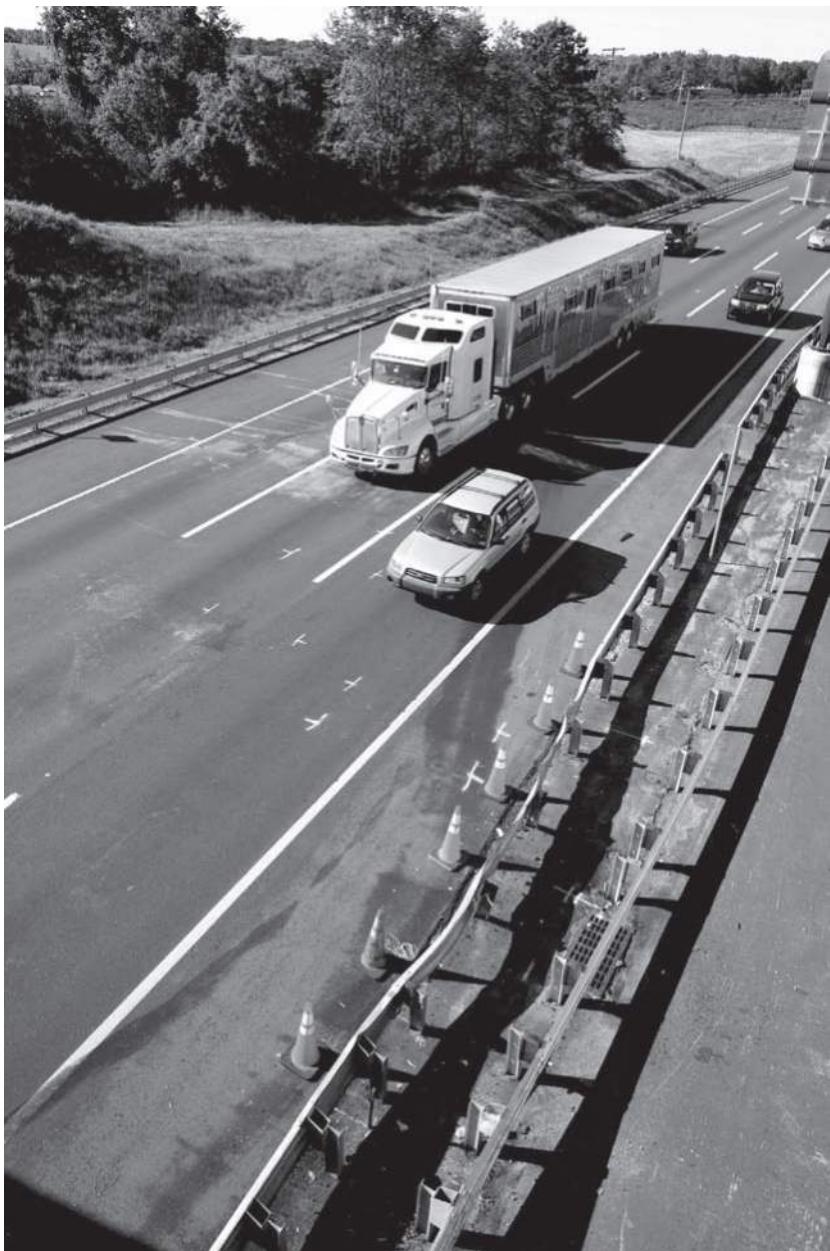
Morgan's limo was owned by Atlantic Transportation Services, which said it had one employee behind the wheel and a second in the

front passenger seat.

"Although the investigation is still pending, we concur with the preliminary reports that the accident was caused by another vehicle traveling behind the Atlantic limo bus," the Rehoboth Beach, Delaware-based company said.

Morgan performed comedy standup Friday night at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. His scheduled appearance at the Fillmore Charlotte in North Carolina on Saturday was canceled.

Fuqua had tweeted that he was opening for Morgan on Friday. On his Instagram page, Fuqua included a collage of photos from the Delaware show.



Traffic moves pass the scene of a serious accident at milepost 71 on the northbound lanes of New Jersey Turnpike on Saturday, June 7, 2014 near Cranbury, N.J.

Poet Maya Angelou remembered for wisdom, clarity

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Maya Angelou liked to say that people will forget what you said or did in your life, but they will never forget how you made them feel. Former President Bill Clinton, first lady Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey said Saturday they were among the millions touched by Angelou's wisdom when they needed help to rise.

Family and friends, both famous and anonymous, gathered Saturday to remember one of the 20th century's most famous black writers. Amid tears, laughter, and gospel singing, they met at Wake Forest University, where she taught for 32 years though she never graduated from college. Dr. Angelou, as she liked to be addressed out of respect for all the honorary degrees she received, died May 28 at age 86.

Hers was a remarkable life, linking worlds of civil rights, poetry, acting and teaching—those present recalled at the 2-hour-long tribute.

"We could just all be up here talking about how Maya Angelou represented a big piece of American history. And

triumphed over adversity. And proved how dumb racism is," Clinton said at the private memorial service. "But her great gift in her action-packed life was she was always paying attention. And from the time she started writing her books and her poetry, what she was basically doing was calling our attention to the things she'd been paying attention to. And she did it with a clarity and power that will wash over people as long as there is a written and spoken language."

The words of the indomitable woman, who Clinton said seemed to pack five lifetimes into one, changed a little black girl on the south side of Chicago whose Malibu Barbie doll was the standard of female perfection.

"Her voice lifted me right out of my own little head," Obama told those gathered in the wooden pews of the main campus chapel. A large photo of her husband awarding Angelou the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 hung from

the campus chapel's oak wall.

The first lady added, "She told us that our worth has nothing to do with what the world might say. Instead, she said, each of us comes from the Creator trailing wisps of glory. She

reminded us that we must each find our own voice, decide our own value, and then announce it to the world with all the pride and joy that is our birthright as members of the human race."

Tall and majestic, Angelou added heft to her spoken words with a deep and sonorous voice. She once described herself as a poet in love with "the music of language." She recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history, "On the Pulse of Morning," when Clinton opened his first term in 1993.

Clinton remembered that voice, and how Angelou chose not to speak for five years after she was raped by her mother's boyfriend as a child.

"She was without a voice for five



Angelou

years and then she developed the greatest voice on the planet. God loaned her His voice," Clinton said. "She had the voice of God. And he decided he wanted it back."

Winfrey said the close and constant friend she met before becoming a talk show host could shake her out of bouts of self-doubt. Angelou taught her to look beyond trouble and spot the rainbow in the clouds, Winfrey said.

"Maya Angelou is the greatest woman I have ever known," Winfrey said, then almost sobbing: "She was my anchor. So it's hard to describe to you what it means when your anchor shifts."

Winfrey and Obama, seated next to each other in the chapel's front row, swayed in unison as Grammy-winning gospel singer Bobby Jones prompted hands to wave and clap. Actor and producer Tyler Perry assisted actress Cicely Tyson and former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young to the podium before country singer Lee Ann Womack drew cheers with her hit "I Hope You Dance."

Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis and raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and San Francisco. Her life

included writing poetry by age 9, giving birth as a single mother by 17, and becoming San Francisco's first black streetcar conductor. She also danced at a strip joint, sang on records, acted alongside James Earl Jones and earned a Tony nomination for her work on Broadway. She wrote music and plays, received an Emmy nomination for her acting in the 1970s TV miniseries "Roots" and danced with Alvin Ailey.

Angelou also worked as a coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and lived for years in Egypt and Ghana, where she met South African liberation pioneer Nelson Mandela. In 1968, she was helping the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. organize the Poor People's March in Memphis, Tennessee, where the civil rights leader was slain on Angelou's 40th birthday.

Her son, Guy Johnson, said Angelou's last decade was filled with pain—the toll of her career as a professional dancer and respiratory failure. She was bound to a wheelchair and oxygen tanks. Still, she was able to write four more books, had all of her mental faculties, and died quietly in her sleep.

"There is no mourning here," he said.

Melanie Griffith files to divorce Antonio Banderas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Melanie Griffith filed for divorce Friday from Antonio Banderas, her husband of 18 years.

For years they were among Hollywood's hottest couples, with Banderas publicly supporting his wife's treatments for addiction and both supporting charitable causes.

Griffith cited irreconcilable differences in the court filing in Los Angeles. The actors were married in 1996 and have a 17-year-old daughter together.

Griffith, 56, is seeking spousal support but is willing to pay her own attorney fees, her filing shows.

Griffith, who has a tattoo of Banderas' first name in a heart on her right shoulder, signed the divorce petition on May 30 but did not specify the date of their separation.

They first worked together on the set of the 1995 romantic comedy "Two Much," Banderas, 53, later directed his wife in the 1999 film "Crazy in Alabama."

In 2011, the couple hosted a fundraiser for President Barack Obama at their Los Angeles



This Nov. 18, 2013 file photo shows actors Melanie Griffith, left, and Antonio Banderas at the "Black Nativity" premiere in New York.

home.

Griffith has been married four times, including twice to actor Don Johnson. Banderas has one previous marriage.

Banderas in recent years has served as the voice of the animated character Puss in Boots in the "Shrek" films and starred in Pedro Almodovar's two most recent films, "The Skin I Live In" and "I'm So Excited!"

Griffith was nominated for an Oscar for her performance in the 1998 film "Working Girl." She has recently turned to television work, guest-starring in "Hawaii Five-0," "Hot in Cleveland" and "Raising Hope." In 2003, she won praise for her role in the Broadway revival of "Chicago."

An email sent to the couple's publicist, Robin Baum, was not immediately returned.

The Tony Awards will be a knockout—literally

NEW YORK (AP)—The competition at the Tony Awards is fierce every year, but this time promises to be positively brutal: A fight will actually break out onstage.

Sunday's telecast will feature the usual black ties, soaring songs and gentle jokes—and an eye-popping boxing match between Rocky Balboa and Apollo Creed in a regulation-size ring on the Radio City Music Hall stage.

It's part of an attempt to highlight as many Broadway musicals as possible and promises to be a boon to the backers of the show "Rocky,"

which failed to secure a best musical nomination despite its stunning sets and choreography.

"The adrenaline will be high, but I want it to look really good. I'm not so much nervous as much as I can't wait to get in there and do this for people," said Andy Karl, the Tony-nominated actor who plays Rocky.

Karl will be the focus of the show's brief moment in front of millions. He will initially be part of a workout montage as he dances with eight other Rockys to Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger." Then Creed, played

by Terence Archie, will swagger in from the right aisle with an entourage, and the two boxers will perform the 15th and last round of the climactic, bloody bout. Altogether, they have just 2 1/2 minutes to shine.

"It's going to feel like a train leaving the station," warns Kelly Devine, who choreographed "Rocky" with Steven Hoggett and who earned a Tony nomination. "To get to do it on the Tonys is really very thrilling. And I think what we've put together is also going to make for very exciting television."

Siblings are growling over cat-sitting charges

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I accepted a request from my brother to watch his cats while he was across the country for a few months. During that time, one of them matured and started marking his territory all over my house. The dilemma was quickly taken care of with a trip to the vet, after permission from my brother.

My brother now insists that because I accepted responsibility for the cats "in every way" in his absence that I shouldn't expect reimbursement for the professional carpet cleaner I rented or the vet bill I paid for neutering the cat.

Am I out of line to expect to be paid back? We



Dear Abby

have agreed to abide by your response.—CHRISTINA IN MARYLAND

DEAR CHRISTINA: Tell your brother to start

writing the check now. If he'd had to board his cats while he was out of town, it would have cost him a lot more. You were kind to help him out, and he should be ashamed of himself for trying to stiff you. HISSS!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is in a barbershop quartet. While I appreciate the artistic effort of what she does, listening to it bores me and I don't enjoy it. I feel like I must go to her recitals because she makes a point of inviting my husband and me.

I have an ethical dilemma. Should I be honest with her and say I don't enjoy sitting through two to three hours of a capella songs? Or

Alec Baldwin accepts key to Rhode Island city

CENTRAL FALLS, R.I. (AP)—Actor Alec Baldwin has received the key to Rhode Island's smallest city for his donations to help reopen the financially struggling city's library.

Baldwin donated \$10,000 to the Adams Memorial Library in Central Falls in 2011 after he read a New York Times story about how it was forced to close because of financial problems. He gave another \$5,000 in 2012. The 1-square-mile city emerged from bankruptcy that year.

Baldwin's visit Saturday was his first to the library.

Library director Joel Pettit (PETT-it) says Baldwin accepted the key from the mayor on the library steps. He was headlining a fundraiser Saturday night in nearby Providence for the library. Pettit said Baldwin is a great guy, and he's hopeful the event will bring attention to the importance of libraries.



This April 10, 2014 file photo shows actor Alec Baldwin at the 2014 TCM Classic Film Festival's Opening Night Gala in Los Angeles.

Actor: Studios set double standard for black films

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Taye Diggs says Hollywood studios hold African-American films to a frustratingly separate and unfair standard.

Whether a studio decides to proceed with a black-oriented film can depend on the success of other movies with primarily African-American casts, even if the projects are unconnected, said Diggs, who starred in "The Best Man" romantic comedy and its sequel.

In a recent interview, the actor said he and others who worked on the "Best Man" movies are eager to start on a third. But its fate is tied to how other black-oriented films, including the upcoming "Think Like a Man Too," perform at the box office, he said.

"Unfortunately, the business is such that as far as studios are concerned, they judge one quote-unquote black movie on



This photo released by TNT shows Taye Diggs in a scene from the pilot for "Murder in the First."

how other 'black' movies have done, even if they have nothing to do with each other," he said.

That's "ridiculously" frustrating, said Diggs, 43, whose movie credits include "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Rent." He stars in a new TNT drama, "Murder in the First."

"We've definitely come a long way. But we've got a long way to go," he said. "It's too bad we can't do well on our own merit when it comes to the studios. They don't like to take risks and, unfortunately, we're still considered a huge risk, even though I don't think we are."

"The Best Man Holiday" grossed more than \$70 million in North America last year and was profitable, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak.

Universal Studios, which released 1999's "The Best Man" and its sequel that included stars Diggs, Morris Chestnut and Sanaa Lathan, declined comment.

second is that your late wife may have been trying to "remind" you that you had a love before her, and you may find another one in the future.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is 5pm on Friday, June 13th 2014.

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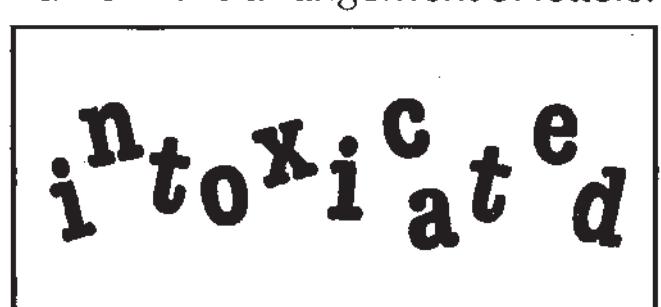
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Miller pitches 3-hitter, Cardinals beat Blue Jays



TORONTO
(AP)—Shelby Miller

took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and finished with a three-hit shutout as the St. Louis Cardinals beat Toronto 5-0 Saturday, snapping the Blue Jays' six-game winning streak.

Randal Grichuk hit his first career home run in the Cardinals' third win in 11 games.

Miller (7-5) struck out five and walked one. He retired the first 13 batters before walking Adam Lind in the fifth.

Jose Reyes lined a single to right field with two outs in the sixth for Toronto's first hit. Melky Cabrera followed with a ball that nicked first baseman Allen Craig's glove for a double, but Miller struck out Jose Bautista swinging at a high fastball to end the inning.

Mark Buehrle (10-2) had won six straight decisions. Grichuk's solo homer was the only run Buehrle allowed in seven innings.

Angels 6, White Sox 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout hit a game-tying grand slam in the bottom of the eighth, Josh Hamilton had three hits and scored the go-ahead run, and Los Angeles erased five-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Chicago starter Chris Sale took a three-hit shutout into the eighth and the White Sox held a commanding 5-0 lead.

Erick Aybar led off the eighth with a double and scored on Chris Iannetta's single, and after an error and another single loaded the bases, Trout hit a full-count change-up over the left-center field fence to tie it. Aybar stroked a two-out RBI single later in the inning, and Ernesto Frieri closed it out for the Angels.

The grand slam was Trout's only hit of the game. He has a hit in 14 of his last 15 games and has reached base in 26 of his last 27.

Sale was all but unhittable for the first seven innings. The 25-year-old left-hander didn't allow an Angels runner past second base to that point and appeared firmly in control.

Cory Rasmus (1-0), who was recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake before the game, pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the win.

Giants 5, Mets 4

In San Francisco, Michael Morse hit an RBI single with one out in the ninth inning after Hunter Pence's tying double, and San Francisco rallied to beat New York.

Angel Pagan had three singles, two RBIs and reached base all five times against his former team. He reached leading off the ninth when catcher Anthony Recker dropped the third strike and his throw pulled Lucas Duda



league debut.

Nick Castellanos also homered for the Tigers, and Dustin Pedroia went deep for Boston. Detroit closer Joe Nathan allowed two runs in the ninth in a non-save situation, but retired Stephen Drew on a flyout with two on to end it.

Max Scherzer (7-2) allowed four runs and 11 hits in 6 2/3 innings. Jon Lester (6-7) took the loss.

Orioles 6, Athletics 3

In Baltimore, Kevin Gausman earned his first win as a starter while Adam Jones and David Lough each homered for Baltimore.

Called up from Triple-A Norfolk earlier in the day, Gausman (1-1) set career highs by pitching seven innings and striking out six.

Gausman, the fourth overall pick in the 2012 draft, gave up one run and four hits and walked one. He had made six previous starts in the majors over two seasons.

Jones hit his ninth homer, a solo shot in the first. Lough, who entered the game batting just .184, hit his second homer.

Oakland lost for just the second time in eight games. Sonny Gray (6-2) allowed a season-high five runs on four hits and four walks in 5 1/3 innings.

Royals 8, Yankees 4

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer, Eric Hosmer also went deep and Kansas City cruised past New York.

Alex Gordon, Lorenzo Cain, Alcides Escobar and Nori Aoki drove in a run apiece as the Royals bounced back from an offensively inept performance in a 4-2 series-opening loss Friday night.

Aaron Crow (3-1) retired one batter in the sixth in relief of starter Danny Duffy, and breezed through the seventh to earn the victory. Kelvin Herrera and Michael Mariot finished it off.

James Loney homered for the Rays, who had a stopped a 10-game losing streak by beating Seattle 4-0 Friday night.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 4, 10 innings

In Denver, Brandon Barnes' triple off the center-field wall in the 10th inning scored the winning run and Colorado snapped an eight-game losing streak.

The defeat capped a tough day for the Dodgers, who saw outfielder Yasiel Puig and second baseman Dee Gordon leave early because of injuries.

Gordon left in the fourth inning because of discomfort in his right hip and was listed as day to day.

Puig was day to day with a strained right hip flexor.

Chris Perez (0-3) allowed a one-out single to Justin Morneau in the 10th. He fanned Michael McKenry before Barnes hit a deep drive to end it.

Franklin Morales (4-4) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher Shelby Miller throws against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning of a baseball game in Toronto, Saturday, June 7, 2014.

off first base. Mets manager Terry Collins challenged the play but lost.

Pence hit a tying double that scored Pagan and advanced to third on Buster Posey's deep fly to left-center. After Jerry Mejia (1-2) intentionally walked Pablo Sandoval, Morse sent a single to deep right and was mobbed by teammates before he reached second.

Randall Delgado (1-1) struck out the side after a leadoff walk in the 11th to get the victory.

Padres 4, Nationals 3, 11 innings

In San Diego, Yonder Alonso homered with two outs in the ninth inning to tie the game and Cameron Maybin hit an RBI bloop single with two outs in the 11th to carry San Diego past Washington.

Chase Headley started the winning rally when he singled to left with two outs off Craig Stammen (0-2). Alonso walked before Maybin singled in front of right-fielder Jayson Werth. Headley easily beat the throw home.

Joaquin Benoit (2-0) pitched a perfect 11th for the win.

Alonso tied the game at 3 in the ninth when he homered into the Jack Daniel's party deck atop the right-field wall on a 1-1 pitch from Rafael Soriano. It was Alonso's fifth homer and Soriano's second blown save in 14 opportunities.

The Diamondbacks were 0 for 12 with runners in scoring position before Aaron Hill's pinch-hit double off Kimbrel down the right field line scored Ender Inciarte from second to tie it at 2-2.

Jason Heyward homered with two outs in the 10th off Addison Reed to put the Braves up 3-2, but Miguel Montero tied it again with an opposite-field, one-out shot off Anthony Varvaro in Arizona's half of the inning.

Ross singled with one out off David Carpenter (4-1), then Didi Gregorius walked

Twins break it open and an RBI single in the fifth.

Gibson (5-5) scattered three hits and three walks while striking out five, allowing only one runner to reach second base. He induced 12 groundball outs, including the last nine batters he retired.

Scott Feldman (3-4) was chased in the second inning as the Twins jumped to a 3-0 lead.

Indians 8, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Yan Gomes and Carlos Santana, the last two batters in Cleveland's order, homered to back Josh Tomlin.

Tomlin (4-2) had his longest appearance this season. The native of Tyler, Texas, left after giving up a leadoff single to Adrian Beltre in the ninth.

It was 1-all before Gomes hit a three-run homer in the sixth off Nick Tepesch (2-2).

Santana capped a four-run seventh with a two-run shot into the right-center field bullpen off Tanner Scheppers. Santana went 2 for 2, walked twice and scored two runs.

Tigers 8, Red Sox 6

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera had three hits, Eugenio Suarez homered for his first hit in the majors and Detroit sent Boston to its fifth straight loss.

Detroit has won all five games against the Red Sox this season after losing to them in the AL championship series last year.

Santana, who hit his first major league home run on Friday night, flied out to lead off the first inning. He then got hits in his next four at-bats, raising his average to .373.

Santana hit a two-run single in the second, a two-run double in the fourth to help the

Cubs 5, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Junior Lake hit two home runs, Emilio Bonifacio added a two-run shot and Chicago extended its winning streak to five games.

Jeff Samardzija (2-5) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings, striking out eight. Pedro Strop got his second save.

Lake, who has eight homers, had a pair of solo shots for the second multihomer game of his career.

Christian Yelich went 2 for 4 with a homer for the Marlins.

Randy Wolf (1-2) gave up four runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Spurs try to drop Heat into unfamiliar 2-0 hole



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs are on an unprecedented postseason roll that not even a boatload of turnovers in Game 1 of the NBA Finals could stop.

They probably ruined Tim Duncan's hopes of a career change, though.

Duncan wants to be a point guard, coach Gregg Popovich revealed Saturday, a wish that won't be granted. But Duncan would gladly settle for another championship, and the Spurs would be halfway there by beating Miami on Sunday night in Game 2.

The Spurs have won eight straight postseason home games by 15 or more points, an NBA record, but know as well as anyone that a one-game lead means nothing against the Heat.

"That's why I think we can't be satisfied," said point guard Tony Parker, who isn't worried about losing his job to Duncan. "Because we were in the same situation and we know they can win here, and so we just have to go out there and play our game and try to win this one. I think it's a big game for the series."

LeBron James expects to be fully ready for the Heat, who also dropped the opener last year in the finals against the Spurs, and in 2012 to Oklahoma City. Miami is 5-0 in series with James when dropping the opener, rebounding to win Game 2 every time.

A 2-0 deficit would surely

bring loads of unwanted attention to what's already one of the most scrutinized players and teams in sports.

"I'm sure the series would be over from the outside," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said, laughing.

"Our focus is on how we can win ballgames and understand in the series it's the first one to four; not the first one to one, not the first one to two, not the first one to three. You win a series by being the first one to four. We understand the journey, we understand the path and what it takes to get there."

The Heat were in position to win Game 1 before James departed with cramps. The Spurs committed 23 turnovers that not only led to 28 Miami points but also prevented them from getting the ball more often to Duncan, who shot 9 of 10 from the field.

Popovich said Duncan never demands more shots, even when he is in a good rhythm like he was Thursday.

"No, the only thing Timmy has ever demanded is he wants to play the point and he thinks I've held him back," Popovich said. "True story. He thinks he's a point guard."

Duncan is one of the best power forwards in NBA history but likes to think like a little guy, though he realizes he hurt his chances of getting to actually play the part of one.

"After my five turnovers the other night, I think I took a step back from that," he said. "I don't think that I'm going to be able



AP

San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan stretches during practice on Saturday, June 7, 2014, in San Antonio. The team plays Game 2 of the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat on Sunday.

to step up and fill that role for a little while. But, no, I enjoy getting in the middle of the floor and making decisions and getting the ball to the right place, and that's what a point guard's got to do."

The Spurs don't need one, not after Parker looked healthy while posting 19

points and eight assists in the opener after missing the second half of the Western Conference finals clincher because of a sore left ankle. He laughed when told that Popovich and Duncan had brought up his teammate's aspirations.

"Are we still talking about

that? I can't believe they brought it up in the NBA Finals," Parker said. "It's been a joke that Timmy thinks he's a great quarterback, that he can be a good passer. I disagree with that. I want to keep my spot."

With Parker seemingly fine, James' health remained the focus. He practiced Saturday and was still receiving treatments in hopes of preventing more cramping. It also should help

that the air conditioning inside the AT&T Center has been repaired, but he won't be worrying about that, anyway.

"You can't think about what may happen in the third or fourth quarter. Live in the moment," James said. "And for me, whatever I can give my teammates if it happens again, hopefully I can make an impact while I'm on the floor and that's all that matters to me."

Snyder introduced as new Jazz coach

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Quin Snyder knows he has his work cut out for him with the Utah Jazz, but also feels he has the support of ownership to build the team back to a perennial playoff contender.

"For a coach to have the loyalty of the ownership group, you feel you don't need to skip steps," Snyder said Saturday as he was introduced as the team's eighth head coach, and the first since 1979 hired from outside the organization. "It's a process and sometimes there is pressure to accelerate that process but we want to build something that will last."

Snyder, who just completed his first season as an assistant with the Atlanta Hawks, takes over a team with a talented core of players 24 years old and younger. The Jazz also have two first round picks, including No. 5 overall, in the upcoming NBA draft.

Utah was also reportedly considering Chicago assistant Adrian Griffin, NBA coaching veteran Alvin Gentry and Jazz assistant Brad Jones. However, Snyder's reputation for player development

played a primary role in landing the job.

"Trust is something that's earned," said Snyder, who has also been an assistant with the Los Angeles Lakers, Philadelphia 76ers and Los Angeles Clippers. "It takes time but with players, they always respond when you give yourself to them and help them get better. They then give back to you. Those relationships are what drive player development."

Snyder is the first outsider hired to lead the Jazz since former Houston Rockets coach Tom Nissalke for the franchise's first season in Utah after moving from New Orleans.

After playing at Duke, Snyder—who has gained a reputation as a keen offensive mind with excellent communication skills—was an assistant for Larry Brown with the Clippers and then earned an MBA-law degree at Duke before assisting Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski for six seasons.

He was seen as a rising star in the college coaching ranks when he led Missouri to the quarterfinals of the NCAA

tournament in 2002 and posted a 128-96 record over seven seasons. The team faltered toward the tail end of that time and he resigned as the school was placed on probation for minor infractions.

"There was a point in my career when I left Missouri when I just wasn't sure I wanted to continue coaching," Snyder said. "I had to rediscover my passion for the game over the next few years and I was so fortunate to work with an amazing caliber of coaches."

Utah general manager Dennis Lindsey, who was previously in the San Antonio front office, became closely acquainted with Snyder when he coached the Austin Toros, the Spurs' NBA Development League affiliate, from 2007-10.

"We decided with Austin that we would focus of development rather than winning, but what happened is that we developed players and helped the highest number of players matriculate to the NBA during that stretch. We also won a lot of games at the same time," Lindsey said.

Snyder served as an assistant with CSKA Moscow

under Ettore Messina and has also coached with Doug Collins and Gregg Popovich in the past few years.

"I've had a chance to work with some of the best minds in basketball," Snyder said. "It's humbling to think how I've been able to be around those people like Coach K, Coach Pop, R.C. Buford. Through those opportunities, you know what you don't know. But I'd like to think I took advantage of it."

Snyder inherits a team that went 112-146 in 3 1/2 years under Tyrone Corbin—including 25-57 last season, the franchise's worst mark since going 24-58 in its first year in Utah.

"I love this game. It's been good to me and I have a passion for it," Snyder said. "I love player development and that's something that's central to me. I want to help these young men get better."

With Snyder at the helm of an NBA team for the first time, the Jazz hope their players soon develop into the type of team they had while making 20 consecutive playoff appearances from 1984-2003.

JAMES IMPROVING, RETURNS TO HEAT PRACTICE

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Predictably, the first question LeBron James got after walking into the San Antonio Spurs' practice facility on Saturday was about the state of his health.

"Feeling really good," James said.

The Miami Heat surely liked that answer.

James returned to the practice floor with the Heat on Saturday, two days after he was forced to leave Game 1 of the NBA Finals because of cramps. He will be in the lineup for Game 2 against the Spurs on Sunday night, when sports' safest bet will be that the temperature inside San Antonio's AT&T Center will be several degrees lower than it was for the series opener.

"I'm doing well, doing a lot better," James said before Saturday's workout. "The soreness is starting to get out. I'm feeling better than I did yesterday and with another day, I should feel much better tomorrow."

James wasn't going to go crazy on the conditioning front Saturday. The Heat were planning a glorified walkthrough for their practice, and the four-

time NBA MVP expected to get some cardio work done by biking and running. He'll also continue getting treatment as part of a recovery regimen that will stretch into Sunday—plus, as one would expect, as many fluids into his system as he can handle.

"He's feeling better, moving around," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Yesterday was all about rest and hydration and building his body back up. Thankfully we had that extra day."

James left with 3:59 remaining in Game 1 after his body shut down because of the cramps. The Heat trailed by two at that point and wound up losing by 15.

James told teammates before Game 1 that they needed to have a Game 7 approach—and with the Heat down 1-0 in the series, he'll underscore that point again Sunday.

"I want to be able to finish the game but you have to have that mindset, there is no tomorrow," James said. "It's challenging, but for a championship you don't want it easy."

San Roque, ICS Shooters oust opponents

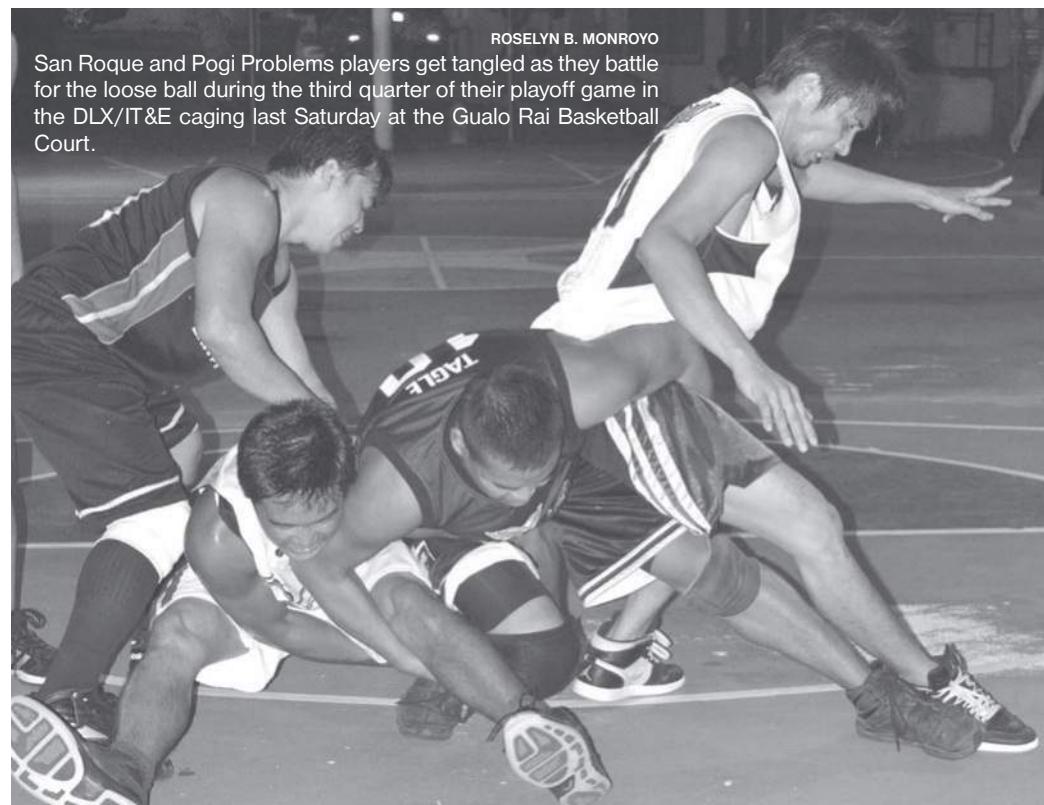
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Roque and ICS Shooters advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2014 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League after eliminating their respective playoff foes last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ICS first booted out JP World, 74-65, while San Roque ousted Pogi Problems in the second playoff match of the night, 88-79.

Pogi Problems failed to survive the first round of the playoffs, as it could not sustain its momentum in the second half after leading by as much as 11, 33-22, early in the second period. Pogi Problems played with only six players, but with Sonny Lerio hitting consecutive triples in the second canto, the depleted team stunned San Roque with a double-digit spread. Lerio knocked in four treys in the second canto and scored 14 straight markers in the five-minute stretch.

Lerio's fourth triple in the second frame also served as Pogi Problems' last field goal



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

in that quarter, while San Roque went on a 9-2 windup to move within 6 at the break, 32-38. San Roque then opened the third canto with three straight triples off Angelo Fernando's shot from the left key and Jaymark Mendoza's back-

to-back shots from the right corner to grab the lead, 41-38.

San Roque went on to keep the upper hand at the end of the third, 58-54, as Pogi Problems started running out of offensive options with Lerio and John Jugos faltering on their

outside shots. With Pogi Problems shooters misfiring and San Roque finally getting its act together, it was the latter's turn to take a double-digit lead. San Roque led by as much as 16, 77-61, and the game was already decided midway in the

fourth canto with Pogi Problems either turning the ball over or muffing one shot after another.

In the first game, ICS stole the win from JP World, which led at the end of each of the first three quarters before collapsing in the payoff canto.

JP World, which was hanging on to a precarious 54-53 lead after the third period, made only four field goals in the fourth frame. ICS Shooters only outgunned JP World by two in the field goal department, but the former earned a living from the free throw line to secure the win. ICS Shooters gained eight points from the stripe, including the last five that sealed the victory.

Lerio Galarce led ICS Shooters with 17 points, seven of them came in the pivotal fourth. He also drilled four charities in the fourth, while Cecilio Bisana added three free throws and also tallied seven points in that frame.

With the victory, ICS

forced a quarter-final showdown against Group A top finisher Ali'i. They collide to-

night in the second game at 8pm, while San Roque takes on Group B first placer Gwap Gang in the curtain raiser at 6:30pm.

First Game

ICS Shooters 74 – Galarse 17, Inos 14, Brennan 12, Bisana 8, Chariton 8, Ong 7, Namelo 4, Babauta 3.

JP World 65 – Manalo 32, Paraiso 11, J. Camacho 9, Jose 5, De Leon 2, D. Camacho 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-21, 37-38, 53-54, 74-65.

Second Game

San Roque 88 – De Guzman 31, Mendoza 15, Barrios 14, Fernando 12, Guiang 4, Gunacao 4, Odicata 2.

Pogi Problems 79 – Lerio 36, Hernaez 18, Tagle 9, Jugos 9, Madre 4.

Scoring by quarters: 12-18, 32-38, 58-54, 88-79.

SHARPOVA

From Page 28

Plus, Sharapova had an operation on her right shoulder, the one she uses to swing her racket, in October 2008. That joint troubled the Russian again in 2013, when she played one match from July to December.

She now travels with a physiotherapist, Jerome Bianchi, and told him during the post-match ceremony, "Thank you for keeping me healthy."

This was the ninth Grand Slam final for the No. 7-seed-

ed Sharapova, and the first for Halep, a 22-year-old Romanian seeded fourth. Supported by a dozen folks in her guest box wearing red T-shirts saying "Allez Simona," and fans that chanted her first name, Halep acquitted herself well, showing off the scrambling baseline style that carried her to six straight-set wins until Saturday.

"I will not forget this match," said Halep, who wiped away tears afterward.

Each time it appeared Sharapova was ready to pull away, she was forced to do extra work.

At 4-3 in the second set, Sharapova held two break points, but Halep saved both with gutsy groundstrokes. In the tiebreaker, Sharapova got within two points of victory at 5-3, but Halep took the next four to claim the set.

That's when Sharapova left for the locker room, taking an 8-minute break during which she changed out of her sweat-soaked outfit—and let Halep stew for a bit. Sharapova went ahead 4-2, but Halep broke back to 4-all.

It turned out that was her last stand, though. Sharapova wouldn't lose another point,

gritting her teeth and shaking her fists after breaking at love for 5-4 with a backhand winner, then holding at love by forcing a backhand error from Halep on match point.

When it ended, Sharapova dropped to her knees, caking her shins with clay, and folded her body forward, burying her face in her hands.

"I had good tactics today. I opened the angles. Also, I was hitting the ball strong," Halep said.

But Sharapova, Halep continued, "was moving really well."

Cow on ice?
More like Queen of Clay.

gained in the 200m backstroke event after placing third behind Australia's Nicholas Groenewald (2:03.56) and New Zealand's Bradley Ashby (2:07.30). Joining Kimura and Ackerman on the May honor list were biker Athena Andrews and bowler Alex Castro.

Andrews was named NMSA Female Athlete of the Month for ruling the Tour De Tinian. She finished the 100-kilometer MTB race in 5:12:35 to prevail over fellow Saipan biker Glorybel Tan (6:08:13)

and was ranked fourth overall, defeating a bunch of male participants. The Saipan International School teacher also topped the female division of "Road to Hell," a 40-kilometer race Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation organized to prepare local bikers for the Hell of Marianas.

Meanwhile, Castro got NMSA's nod after winning the 32nd May Masters Tournament against 25 other bowlers. He came from behind to clinch his second May Masters crown,

as he was ranked third after the 11th game before he collected 224 pinfalls in Game 12 to win by only seven pinfalls. Castro totaled 2,832 pinfalls to beat the 2,375 and 2,370 of Rusty Musca and Robert Talavera, respectively.

The May Masters champion also prevailed in the doubles event of the annual competition, partnering with Talavera. He also had a runner-up finish in the team event, joining forces with Paul Pangelinean, Raul Dumapit, and Percy Omechelng.

the 50m, 100m, and 200m freestyle, fifth in 50 backstroke, and third in the 200m IM. Xu ruled the 50m breaststroke and 100m backstroke, was ranked fourth in the 100m freestyle, third in the 200m freestyle, second in the 50m backstroke, and sixth in the 50m freestyle.

In the girls 9 to 10 age group, Gauran triumphed after prevailing in the 50m, 100m, and 200m butterfly and 50m, 100m, and 200m

breaststroke, and getting runner-up honors in both the 200m and 400m IM races.

In the boys 17 to 18 age group, Kensuke Kimura joined only three events and still managed to make it to the winners circle after placing third in his division. Kimura participated in the 50m butterfly (27.03 seconds), 50m backstroke (29.09 seconds), and 50m freestyle (26.14 seconds).

ACKERMAN

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ming Championships.

The 18-year-old Kimura reset CNMI national marks in the 100m backstroke (1:02.67), 50m backstroke (28.94 seconds), and 200m backstroke

(2:18.04) in the four-day competition held at the West Wave Aquatic Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Besides earning three CNMI national records, Kimura also brought home with him a bronze medal, which he

TSUNAMI

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Dangol in the battle for the top spot in the girls U8 age group.

In the boys division, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero and Hans Xu made it to the podium, placing second and third, respectively in the U8 division. Camacho was first in the 50 and 100m butterfly, second in

100m and 200m freestyle, 200m IM, and 50m butterfly and placed second in the 50m backstroke. Joining Gauran in the Top 3 was teammate and runner-up Aika Watanabe, while in the boys division, nine-year-old Juhn Tenorio saved third place. In the girls 9 to 10 age group, Gauran reigned supreme, as she won the 50m breaststroke, 50m,

breaststroke, and getting runner-up honors in both the 200m and 400m IM races.

In the boys 17 to 18 age group, Kensuke Kimura joined only three events and still managed to make it to the winners circle after placing third in his division. Kimura participated in the 50m butterfly (27.03 seconds), 50m backstroke (29.09 seconds), and 50m freestyle (26.14 seconds).

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	25	.603	—
Baltimore	31	29	.517	5½
New York	31	30	.508	6
Boston	27	34	.443	10
Tampa Bay	24	39	.381	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	33	25	.569	—
Cleveland	31	31	.500	4
Chicago	31	32	.492	4½
Kansas City	30	32	.484	5
Minnesota	29	31	.483	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	38	24	.613	—
Los Angeles	33	28	.541	4½
Seattle	32	29	.525	5½
Texas	31	31	.500	7
Houston	27	36	.429	11½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	25	.603	—
Baltimore	31	29	.517	5½
New York	31	30	.508	6
Boston	27	34	.443	10
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West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB

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The Week in Sports

Falcons' title conquest talk of town

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After taking the back seat for nearly three weeks, the Talaabwogh Falcons returned to center stage and ended the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball with a 9-2 title win over the NSA Braves at Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons gave way to the CNMI District Tournament before making a comeback at the field and successfully defending the championship they won in the 2013 season against McDonald's. The back-to-back champions are composed of Arby Yaguel, Joel Norita, Aven Evangelista, Angel Iguel, Zach Reyes, Nick Nekai, Keoki Blas, Max Pangelinan, Jonathan Renguil, Keoni Ser-

rano, and Herbs Lieto. Manny Evangelista is the Falcons' manager, while Dodet Feliciano, Joseph Lifoifoi, and Jesse Seman are the coaches. The Falcons finished the 2014 season with an impressive 17-1 record, 14-1 in the regular season, absorbing their lone loss this year incidentally at the hands of the Braves (12-2).

Meanwhile, the "Tan Ge" ballfield was also the venue for the finals of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-pitch Softball League with Marianas High School notching two straight championships, too, following a 9-7 victory in Game 2 of their finals duel over three-time champion Saipan Southern High School last Monday.

Pitcher Florita Billy towed the Lady Dolphins to the title

win with her two tag outs at the bottom of the seventh and last inning. Billy made the two defensive stops after throwing what could be a costly wild pitch. Billy and company forced Southern to a deciding Game 1 after cruising to a 13-2 victory in Game 1. The Lady Rays had a twice-to-beat

advantage in the championship round after beating the Lady Dolphins in the winner's bracket semifinals.

In other events last week, both the 2014 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament and 2014 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League started their playoff rounds.

Corp. caging continued their regular season games with San Antonio and Island Manpower keeping their unbeaten records after five games.

Matches in the M-League and the 2014 NMIFA Women's League also pushed through last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Glenn Bluutjens reaches in for a return, while teammate Hannah Choi stays back during their semis game against Ferdie Arago and Lanie Bartolome in the mixed doubles A division of the IT&E badminton tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Falcons' Justin Cangco goes for the game-winning catch at the bottom of the sixth inning of their title match against the Braves in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The Falcons won, 9-2.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shocker Nation's Lester Vertudez drives and draws a foul on the Pelican's Jesse Santos during their game in the DL Corp. caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School batter looks back at the umpire during the bottom of the fourth inning of their title game against Saipan Southern High School in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pogi Problems' Teddy Gil Orbeta challenges the defense of I Love Saipan's Larry Sharry during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX/IT&E caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Falcons, left, and Braves head back to their dugouts after completing their title game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. The Falcons won, 9-2.

Paire FC and Shirley's FC players carry the goalpost to move it past midcourt for a friendly game in the NMIFA women's league last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

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3-hitter,
Cardinals beat
Blue Jays**
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**Spurs try to
drop Heat into
unfamiliar
2-0 hole**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sharapova edges Halep for second title



Russia's Maria Sharapova holds the trophy after winning the final of the French Open tennis tournament against Romania's Simona Halep at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Saturday, June 7, 2014. Sharapova won in three sets, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4 Saturday to win a second French Open title in three years.

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Nothing came easily for Maria Sharapova in the French Open final.

Serves hit by her surgically repaired shoulder often missed the mark, resulting in 12 double-faults. Shots that would be winners against most opponents were retrieved by Simona Halep and sent right back. Leads that usually hold up vanished in a blink. On a muggy afternoon, with the temperature in the high 70s (20s Celsius), points were lung-searing struggles.

Sharapova was up to the task. In an entertaining and undulating championship match—the first women's final at Roland Garros in 13 years to go three sets—Sharapova showed that she's as tough as they come, particularly on the red clay that used to flummox her. She edged Halep 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4 Saturday to win a second French Open title in three years.

"This is the toughest Grand Slam final I've ever played," Sharapova said.

It is her fifth major trophy in all. Remarkably, Sharapova



owns twice as many from Paris as is the one each she won at Wimbledon in 2004, the U.S. Open in 2006, and the Australian Open in 2008.

"If somebody had told me ... at some stage in my career, that I'd have more Roland Garros titles than any other Grand Slam, I'd probably go get drunk," Sharapova said with a chuckle. "Or tell them to get drunk. One or the other."

The 3-hour, 2-minute tangle featured too many momentum swings to count, filled with lengthy baseline exchanges, and terrific defense and shot-making by both women.

Not bad for someone who once famously described herself as feeling like a "cow on ice" when it came to playing on clay, a slow, demanding surface that requires excellent footwork. Now Sharapova knows how to move on clay, and can stretch points when needed. Since the start of 2012, Sharapova is 54-4 with seven titles on clay. She's

also won 20 consecutive clay three-setters, including four in a row this week.

"It says that she's very fit. It says that she's very determined," said Sven Groenfeld, Sharapova's coach. "And it says that she never gives up."

Sharapova broke into a huge smile while hoisting the trophy overhead, then shaking it with both hands and scanning a stadium that, improbably, has become hers. This was her third final in a row in Paris: She won the 2012 title to complete a career Grand Slam, then lost last year to Serena Williams, who bowed out in the second round this time.

Sharapova is 20-1 the last three years at Roland Garros—which is nothing compared to Rafael Nadal's 65-1 career French Open mark heading into Sunday's final Sunday against Novak Djokovic, but certainly quite impressive.

"You're not just born being a natural clay-court player. OK, maybe if you're Nadal. But certainly not me," Sharapova said. "I didn't grow up on it; didn't play on it. I just took it upon myself to make myself better on it."

See SHARPOVA on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan gets high-point awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center brought home nine high-point awards from the 2014 Guam Swimming Championships held late last month at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

The visiting club bagged three first place high-point plums, three second place, and three third in the last off-island tournament of the 2013-2014 season.

Nanaka Watanabe, Sophia Gauran, and Angel Marie Tan topped their respective age groups to lead Tsunami Saipan's campaign in the two-day tournament held last May 30 and 31. Winners were selected based on how they finished in each races,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2014 Guam Swimming Championships held late last month at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

as they received points corresponding to their rankings.

The 8-year-old Watanabe joined five events and finished first in all the races. She timed in at 49.27 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, 1:25.97 in the

100m freestyle, 3:10.30 in the 200m freestyle, 1:146.56 in the 100m breaststroke, and 3:33.41 in the 200m individual medley. She defeated teammate Ashley

With her outstanding come-

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Returning CNMI junior tennis player Tammy Ackerman joined the honor roll for May, as she and three others were recognized for their notable performances in various tournaments last month.

Ackerman, who is based in Thailand, visited the island and participated in the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships. She made it to the main draw of the girls U18 singles, dropped her opening match to Ayumi Hirata, but swept her remaining games to rule the consolation draw. The CNMI player shut out fellow Commonwealth bet Grace Choice, 4-0, 4-0, survived Japan's Asumi Kanazawa in the semis, 5-4 (5), 2-4, 10-5, and then dominated another Japanese player in Maine Hiramatsu in the finals, 6-3, 6-1.

With her outstanding come-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tammy Ackerman practices her smash near the net during a warm-up in last month's 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

back, Northern Marianas Sports Association named the 14-year-old Ackerman as NMSA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Month. Ackerman shared the monthly student

award with swimmer Kensuke Kimura, who was selected for his record-breaking races during the 2014 Oceania Swimmers

See ACKERMAN on Page 26